

ONE!!

Intro: One

“All Things Together Under Christ”

One Body and One Spirit– whole new person, together made to drink of one Holy Spirit of God (Eph 2:16-18; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Gal. 3:28)

1. Our identity belongs to Jesus
 - a. We were all, together, bought with a price, and do not belong to ourselves but to Jesus (1 Pet 1:18-23)
 - b. We are brought in “together” into one purpose: the glory of Christ and the praise of His glorious grace (see chapter 1)
 - c. We do belong to Christ because of our race, socio-economic status, intellect, wisdom, religiosity, or successful living, we are made into the One New Humanity by faith in Jesus Christ through the powerfully effective calling of the Spirit, whom we were all made to drink.
2. We belong to Christ, together
 - a. No matter our former way of life, our language, our culture.
 - b. We have been created as the One New Humanity from every people group of the world and are now one new person in Jesus
 - c. The gospel shows us that we do not come to the Lord based upon anything other than the transforming call and indwelling presence of the Spirit and through our faith (2 Thess 2:13) in Jesus.

Hope belonging to calling – near to the glorified Jesus by God’s grace (1:9-10, 12, 18)

1. Our hope is our nearness to God
 - a. The calling of God upon all of us is to bring us together before God as holy and blameless
 - b. Every one of us, from all peoples of the world, share in this hope of being near to God in holiness and without fear
2. God’s calling, by His Spirit, effects this hope through the sacrifice of Jesus in our place
 - a. It is not through anything else but Jesus and His blood that we draw near to God.
 - b. We trust in Him together, with the same hope based upon the same calling of God in Christ.

Lord – Master over all, Jesus (John 20:28; Phil 3:8-10; Rom 1:7; 13:14; 1 Cor 15:57)

1. Jesus is our Master
 - a. “Jesus is Lord” is the cry of the early church
ILLUST: In the city of Smyrna, about the year 160, while Statius Quadratus was Roman proconsul, there occurred a frightful martyrdom. The aged Polycarp, bishop and saint, was brought to his trial. His judge stood before him and cried, “You are to renounce the faith! You are to curse the name of Christ!” Polycarp gave this response, “Fourscore and six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong, how then can I revile my King, my Savior.” So they took him and burned him to death in the amphitheatre. The early church responded defiantly by writing down exactly what happened and when with these words: “Polycarp was martyred, Statius Quadratus being proconsul of Asia, and Jesus Christ being King forever.”
 - b. Jesus rules over all the earth, there is nothing outside of His control

We do not need to fear in this world, though we may lose everything, for Jesus is still King over all forever!

2. His Mastery is based upon His resurrection
 - a. If Jesus was raised from the dead, He can demand anything of you that He sees fit
 - b. If Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, why listen to anything He has to say?
3. When we are brought together into the One New Humanity, we are brought together "under Christ" (Eph 1:10)
 - a. We repent of following our own notions of truth and righteousness, even of individual liberty, for we are one under Christ.
 - b. We trust in the rulership of Jesus, of His Word and His truth.
 1. He is the one who reveals to us the holiness into which we are to walk, the righteousness into which we have been called, and the fruit of which He is producing
 2. He is our Lord and we seek to obey Him together
 - c. When we come to Christ, we all are asked to give up our idols and to follow Him at any cost (Mark 10:21-22; Luke 14:27)

Faith – Dependence upon Jesus alone as Savior from sin and Lord of our lives (Mark 1:15; Rom 1:17; 3:28; 5:1; Gal 2:20; 5:5)

1. We all have the same dependence upon Jesus: complete
 - a. There is not many objects of faith (only Jesus, nothing else, John 14:6)
 - b. We all have an equal need for redemption, no matter our background of religion or irreligion, we need the grace of God and the blood of Jesus alone for our salvation
2. This same trust is what unifies us together.
 - a. We all come to God the same way: by faith in Jesus Christ
 - b. We reject any other way to God but through faith in Jesus Christ and we are constantly throwing down the idols of our hearts and trusting in Him alone
 - c. We all *completely* depend upon Him and desire the purity of holiness which He is forming in us.
3. We share the same faith that by the blood of Jesus in our place we are innocent before God, and by His Holy Spirit within us we are being made holy as He transforms our hearts into a people zealous for good deeds (Titus 3:8)

Baptism – entrance into the Kingdom (baptism by the Spirit, see Matt 3:11/Mark 1:8/John 1:33, c f. Acts 1:5; 11:15) and discipleship within the Kingdom (become disciples of Christ as our Master)

1. We were all baptized into the same Spirit by the same Lord (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 12:13)
 - a. Our inclusion into this New Humanity was born out when Jesus immersed us in the Holy Spirit as we believed
 - b. Our water baptism is indicative of this truth
2. When the Holy Spirit washed our consciences we became follower of Christ, disciples of the King
 - a. We all enter into the Kingdom by the Spirit's washing of regeneration and renewal
 - b. We all, no matter the depth of our understanding, are reliant upon the Spirit's transforming work of the heart
 - c. We all needed (and continually need) the transforming work of the Spirit within our hearts, no matter where we came from, whether religious or irreligious
3. We have been baptized into the One New Humanity, the third race, the body of Christ, and all of our former distinctions of race, nationality, culture, social status, melt in the same holy fire of God's Spirit

God and Father of all – Supreme Creator and Father of ALL in the One New Humanity (Rom 11:36; Ps 83:18; 103:19; 1 Chr 29:11; Dan 6:26; Jer 32:40)

For His glory

- a. He is over all and through all and in all
 - i. He pervades and encompasses everything! Our redemption and unity within His wondrous plan of gracious redemption is for HIS glory! His reputation! His worship!
 1. This story of our redemption is not initiated out of a mere concern for our suffering, but to an even greater purpose: that God would be glorified for His grace and love throughout all the Universe.
 2. We are not merely included in Him (which we are), but He has deigned to move in us, for our benefit
 - ii. His love for us is great and grand, unfathomable and secure, abundantly generous, full of grace, deeply intimate, personal, and passionate. Just look at how Jesus loves you: He gave up His life for you!! And the Father planned it and sent Him!
 1. We must never equate God's gracious love for us with our worthiness or self-pity.
 2. We must separate God's pardon of us from His purpose of purity within and among us (Titus 3:8)
 - iii. God's love for you is REAL, as REAL as it gets. Can you be grateful for His love? Worship Him for His worthiness and praise Him for His generosity toward you?
- b. Over every other purpose in the Universe is God's self-revelation for His glory
 - i. Our salvation and unity within the calling of God is so that the Cosmos would glorify God
 - ii. Eph 3:8-12 – The creation of the Church by God in Christ is the revelation of his "multi-faceted" wisdom revealed to the spiritual powers
 1. New Race
 2. New Culture
 3. New Kingdom
 - iii. Col 1:18 – His relationship as Head of the Church is so that He will be honored as preeminent and supreme in creation, redemption, and judgment
 - iv. Rev. 7:9-10 – This snapshot of Heaven reveals a ginormous gathering of peoples from every corner of the earth, made pure with holy garments, drawn together singing, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!"

How does affect our relationships with one another in the body?

- a. Grace-Filled Community, where we all are here not based upon our own volition or race/culture, or traditions, or deeds of righteousness, but because of His wondrous grace to us (Titus 3:5-8).
 - i. No room for racism, chauvinism, economic superiority, social superiority, etc.
 - ii. We are free to be honest, open, and transparent with each other regarding our weaknesses and work together against sin in our lives
 - iii. We are free to reprimand each other when we become boastful and self-centered and are acting like we are the Head, not the body
 - i. Jesus alone, by the Father's will, has bound Himself to us. He is the gracious actor in our salvation, we are the grateful recipients of His grace.
- b. Spirit-Filled Community: We are deeply dependent upon the Holy Spirit, through prayer, to change us to think, feel, and behave like sons of God.
 - i. It is the Holy Spirit of God who changes through the power of His Word and our wrestling with His revelation through dependent prayer and submission
 - ii. Our work of service is "family work" not business and not independent of each other

1. Not competitive or comparative, but missional and unified in purpose and success of what Jesus desires and reveals
- c. Deeper Community (love for each other)
- i. God is bringing all things TOGETHER under Jesus and it starts in the Church's unity
 1. UNDER CHRIST: Unity of Love and Faithful Obedience to Jesus
 2. He is the HEAD of the Church
 - ii. How do we relate to others if the mystery of the Gospel is only understood because of God's gracious act of regeneration! There is no basis for hierarchy, religion, or looking down on others!
 1. You're not a Child of God because you're choice
 2. You're a Child of God because you're chosen
- d. Gospel-Centered Community
- i. We can constantly call each other to repent of trusting ourselves and to trust in Jesus alone
 1. Trust Him when He calls us to obey His Word
 - a. Sin
 - b. Defiance
 2. Trust Him when He has promised
 - a. Fear
 - b. Self-pity
 - c. Anxiety
 - ii. I have hope for anyone, because God elects, adopts, redeems, and reveals according to His grace alone
 1. I'm a miracle of grace, why not them?
 2. My prayers change to include this hope for change in me and in others
 3. My actions toward others are for their good and their growth in the obedient dependence of faith in Jesus and submission to His lordship over their lives
 - a. And I ask the same for myself
 - b. The Spirit can change even me, and even the hardest heart in an instant of repentant faith
 - iii. I coerce no one, for only God can reveal Truth as True to the heart by giving His wisdom and understanding
 1. No one comes to Jesus unless the Father draws them. There is no need to "convince" or manipulate anyone into doing what you think that they should do
 2. You don't trust your own methods, or what you determine will change someone, but rather trust what the Lord has revealed in His Word and pray with hope
 3. You never look on anyone without hope
 - iv. I have respect for everyone, for I am saved by grace alone, not my wisdom, intelligence, knowledge, or righteousness
 1. I am not beloved by God because I'm a wiser or more spiritually minded person, a humbler man, a better father, worker, or driver.
 2. I AM NOT THE KING!!! But the King loves me so greatly that He sent His Son to die in my place. Oh! What a King! Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Conclusion: When it all comes down to it, we do have a unique set of values and beliefs that unify us as the One New Humanity. God is bringing all things together under Christ and we, as the Body of Christ, are revealing His powerful plan of restoration and redemption to all the world. Our unity, based upon our commonness in faith in the Triune God of the Word and in His powerful work and supreme lordship over us, is without doubt. We must, to truly walk in-line with our calling, work for unity based upon these seven things in fullness. Let us place our hearts' eyes directly upon the gospel of Jesus Christ and gratefully sing of the Father's wondrous reconciliation in bringing "all things together under Christ" through powerfully transforming call of the Holy Spirit. You are a new community, O Church of the God-possessed! May we walk in-line with our calling of grace in the humility of Christ and the worship of the redeemed!