

their faith and salvation (which they felt they had received previous to their baptism), is their baptism scriptural? ____ Have you been baptized? ____ Did you say a prayer asking Jesus into your heart before you were baptized? ____ If you said such a prayer, then you were not baptized for the right reason. Since you thought Jesus forgave your sins when you said the sinner's prayer, you could not possibly have been baptized "for the forgiveness of sins as Acts 2:38 states. Your intentions may have been noble, but the Bible states that for a baptism to be valid it must be "for the forgiveness of sins".

(6) Into the right body (1 Corinthians 12:13) — Through the teachings of the Holy Spirit, we were all baptized into _____ body, the church of Christ. If we were baptized to become a member of a religious body other than the church of Christ, is our baptism valid? ____

If your baptism is lacking one of these essential elements, then you have never received scriptural baptism and therefore have never been saved. Even though you've already received the ritual of baptism, since it was not carried out as God required, it was therefore not accepted by God. Would it be wise to be baptized scripturally (in the right name, for the right reason, and into the right body) as the Ephesians did in Acts 19:1-5? ____

ONE HOPE

Acts 23:6- Our hope is in the _____ of the dead.

Acts 24:15- Our hope in _____ is that there will be one resurrection of the dead, in which the _____ and unjust will rise.

Colossians 1:5- Where is the hope laid up for us? _____

Can we have unity and fellowship with those who do not share our hope of a bodily resurrection of the dead in which we will receive a new body? ____

Summary: To have true unity (based on the Holy Spirit's teachings), we must be united on every doctrinal issue (1 Corinthians 1:10). We can reach this unity by believing the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible. If we speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent, we will be united. Only then can we truly be "one" as Jesus and his Father are one.

In our next lesson, we will learn the difference between the two parts of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton

ONENESS IN CHRIST

Lesson 7



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

Today many church leaders want unity and numerical growth so desperately that they are willing to compromise truth. They realize that their circle of fellowship will be very small if they insist that the Bible be followed on every issue. In order to enlarge their "circle of fellowship" they begin to limit how much of the Bible must be agreed upon. They begin to compose lists of cardinal doctrines which are mandatory and say the rest of the Bible is superfluous. Is this right?

John 17:20-23 — Christ's prayer was that all those who _____

in Jesus through the word of the apostles be one. He wants us to be _____ just as Jesus and the Father are one. Are Jesus and His Father united (in perfect agreement) on every doctrinal issue? ____ Must we also be perfectly united and agree on every doctrinal issue? ____ (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Ephesians 4:1-6 — We must endeavor to keep the unity of the

_____ in the bond of peace. Our unity must be based upon the what is revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Any other type of unity such as "agreeing to disagree" is not the "unity of the Spirit". To maintain unity, it is not enough to have the truth, verse 2 says we must also be humble, gentle, longsuffering and bear with one another in _____.

In verses 4 thru 6, the apostle lists SEVEN "ones" that must be agreed upon in order for us to have unity and fellowship. What are they?

ONE BODY

Ephesians 1:22,23— The _____ is the body of Christ. Since Jesus has only ONE spiritual body (Eph.4:4) which is the church, then we

must conclude that he has only _____ church. Must we all therefore believe in the one body (one church) of Christ? _____

ONE GOD AND FATHER, ONE LORD, ONE SPIRIT

One plus one plus one is three. There is only one God, yet He is in three persons: the **Father**, the **Lord** Jesus and the Holy **Spirit** (1 Cor.8:6). They are three yet one. Some deny this Biblical truth, teaching that Jesus alone is God (like the Oneness Pentecostal), and others teach that Jesus is not God (like the Jehovah's Witnesses).

Hebrews 1:8— Here God the Father says to the Son (Jesus), "Your

throne, O _____ is forever and ever.", Is the Son here called God? _____ Is the throne of the Son forever? _____

Can we have unity with people who refuse to believe that the Godhead consists of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? _____

ONE FAITH

Acts 6:7— Many of the priests were obedient to the _____. Does the word "faith" here mean "the doctrine and set of beliefs" that the apostles taught? _____

1 Timothy 4:1 — Some would _____ from the faith.

Jude 3— We are to contend for _____. Is there only one faith for which we are to contend? _____ Are we to fight vigorously for the original doctrine of Christ? _____

Today, rather than have one faith, each "Christian" group has its own creed or set of doctrines which distinguishes it from other groups. This is not God's will. Is God pleased when religious people hold to many different doctrines? _____

Acts 2:42— The original church of Christ persevered in the apostle's _____. Can we have fellowship and unity with religious

groups who do not hold to the apostles doctrine on baptism, marriage, the Godhead, the Lord's supper, congregational singing, public teaching and every other doctrinal issue? _____

ONE BAPTISM

In the act of baptism we are transformed into children of God. Many churches are practicing baptisms that are different from the baptism required by Jesus in Bible. There are six traits that characterize the one baptism of the Bible:

(1) Complete immersion (Romans 6:3-4)— Verse 4 states: "We are _____ with Him by baptism into death." If a person is sprinkled with water in the name of Jesus, is that person being scripturally baptized? _____

(2) In water (Acts 10:47,48) — This passage teaches us that baptism in WATER is the baptism that we are commanded to receive in the name

of the _____. No one was ever commanded to be baptized with Holy Spirit baptism. Holy Spirit baptism was a PROMISE, not a command.

(3) Must be preceded by faith, repentance and confession

(Acts 8:37; Acts 2:38) — If the eunuch _____ with all his heart, he would be allowed to be baptized. He confessed, "I believe that

_____ Christ is the _____ of God. In Acts 2:38, it says we

must _____ and then be baptized in that order. Therefore, if a person is baptized without having confessed Jesus, or without having repented, is his baptism valid? _____

(4) Into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19)— If a person is baptized in the name of the Son of God (Jesus) only, is his baptism scriptural? _____

(5) For the right purpose (Acts 2:37,38)— In answer to their question of what they needed to do to be saved, Peter told them to repent and be baptized for the _____ of sins. If someone is baptized for a different reason such as to join a denomination, or as "testimony" of