

PLAN FOR UNITY

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what God has planned for real unity in the church.
2. Text Eph. 4:3-6
3. God has always planned for His people to be united
 - a. O.T.
 - (1) Dan. 2:44 I sa. 2:2
 - (2) Ps. 133:1
 - b. N.T.
 - (1) Jn. 17:20-22 Lord's prayer
 - (2) Phil. 1:27 - unity commanded
 - (3) Col. 3:9-11 - unity in Christ
4. Man has been divided
 - a. When the church was established in A.D. 33 there was ONE.
 - b. In the N.T. times there was only one church mentioned.
 - c. But after many centuries the picture is not the same.
 - d. There are hundreds of different churches and religions. They all teach and practice differently from one another.
5. This is tragic and some have tried to resolve the difficulty of religious division.
 - a. Unity is not...
 - i. Union = together with differences
 - ii. Togetherness = agree to disagree
 - iii. An agreement = between people
 - iv. Toleration = looking other way

b. A very popular approach today is what may be called "Unity in Diversity". The idea is to unite together and accept all different beliefs and practices.

i. That approach is not possible and still be pleasing to God:

ii. Gal. 1:6-8 -- preach another gospel = accursed = eternally condemned

6. Unity is...

a. State of being one, oneness - soldarity, wholeness

b. Concord, harmony, agreement - state of being one, singleness

c. Absence of diversity

7. God has a plan for Unity that will work. - Eph. 4:1-6

Discussion

I. ONE GOD --- UNITY OF WORSHIP --- ELIMINATES HEATHENISM

A. God is to be the object of our worship

1. Ex. 20:3

2. Mt. 4:10

B. Worship is to be done according to His will

1. Jn. 4:24 - Spirit and Truth

2. Mt. 15:9 - if it is according to men's commandments it is vain worship

C. Worship of all others is eliminated

1. Unity of worship eliminates Heathenism = does not acknowledge God of the Bible

2. Angel worship - Rev. 22:8,9 Col. 2:18

3. Other Gods - Acts 17:22,23,30,31

D. Worshipping the one true God will eliminate heathenism

II. ONE LORD -- UNITY OF AUTHORITY --- ELIMINATES JUDAISM

- A. God Speaks through Jesus - Heb. 1:1,2
 - 1. Jesus will reign until the resurrection - Acts 2:36 I Cor.15:24-27
 - 2. All power and authority belongs to Jesus - Mt. 28:18
- B. This eliminates Judaism - Jn. 8:24 -
 - 1. There were a number of Jews who refused to accept Christ as the Messiah, So they remained with the Jewish religion and today it is called Judaism.
 - 2. John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
 - 3. All creeds are eliminated !
 - 4. The authority is not with man but with the Lord who was given all authority!
- C. God's plan of unity has One Lord for unity of authority and that eliminates Judaism.

III. ONE SPIRIT --- UNITY OF REVELATION -- ELIMINATES MODERNISM

- A. The Bible reveals that it is inspired by the Holy Spirit
 - 1. H.S. Guide into all truth - Jn. 14:26 Jn. 16:13
 - 2. All scripture is inspired - II Tim. 3:16,17
 - 3. It is complete - II Pet. 1:3
- B. This will eliminate Modernism - Modernism is:
 - 1. Rejecting the full verbal inspiration of the Bible
 - 2. Claiming that Jesus was just a good man
 - 3. Rejecting the virgin birth
 - 4. Rejecting the blood of Jesus in cleansing man from sin
 - 5. Rejecting the bodily resurrection of Jesus and His second coming.
 - 6. Claims of latter day revelation

- C. This destroys modernism which says the Bible is only good thoughts of good men. -- II
Pet.1:20,21

IV. ONE HOPE --- UNITY OF PROMISES --ELIMINATES MATERIALISM

- A. Hope is the anchor of the soul - Heb. 6:19
1. Saved by hope- Rm. 8:24
 2. Not this life only- I Cor. 15:19
 3. Eternal life - Tit. 1:2
 4. Above -Col. 3:1-4
 5. Heaven -Col. 1:5 I Pet.1:3,4
- B. This eliminates materialism
1. Those who teach that man is only material
 2. Those who live for this world only - Mt.6:19-21, 24
 3. Treasures in heaven not on earth
- C. The One hope brings about unity of promises and eliminates materialism

V. ONE BODY UNITY OF ORGANIZATION - ELIMINATES DENOMINATIONALISM

- A. The one body is the church - Eph.1:22,23 Col. 1:18
1. Christ is the head of 1 body
 2. He promised to build 1 church - Mt. 16:18
 3. He gave his blood for 1 church - Acts 20:28
- B. This eliminates the hundreds of religious groups with different names, creeds, plans of salvation, forms of worship, and organization.

- C. God's plan for unity teaches that there is one body or one church brings about unity of organization and this eliminates all man made religions called denominations.

VI. ONE FAITH --- UNITY OF DOCTRINE -- ELIMINATES SECTARIANISM

- A. Of what faith are you?
1. One faith
 2. Just as there is one God
- B. There is one faith, doctrine
1. We should live and walk by this doctrine, faith -- Phil. 1:27; I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16
 2. None other should be preached - Gal. 1:6-9
 3. The apostles all taught same doctrine - 1 Tim. 1:3
 4. Jude 3
 5. A teacher which preaches another should not be encouraged -- I I Jn. 9-1
Rom. 16:17
- C. This eliminates sectarianism, many faiths, which leads to denominationalism.

VII. ONE BAPTISM -- UNITY OF OBEDIENCE -- ELIMINATES CALVINISM

- A. People ask about baptism
1. Is it essential?
 2. What mode?
 3. Might as well ask whether the Lord Jesus is essential in God's plan for unity.
- B. One baptism
1. Baptism of Holy spirit?
 - a. Promise, not a command.

- b. Was administered by Christ, not by man.
- c. Was temporary, not a permanent element in the church.

2. Action

- a. Going down into, coming up out of the water - Acts 8:38,39
- b. Burial -Rm. 6:4 Col. 2:12

3. Purpose

- a. Remission of sins -Acts 2:38
- b. Washing away sins - Acts 22:16
- c. Get into Christ - Gal. 3:27
- d. Salvation - I Pet. 3:21 - Mk. 16:16

C. This eliminates Calvinism which says that man has no part no choice in his salvation

- 1. T = total heredity depravity
- 2. U = unconditional election
- 3. L = limited attonement
- 4. I = irresistible grace
- 5. P = Perservance of the saints

D. The teaching of God about the one baptism bring about unity of obedience.

Conclusion

- 1. God's plan for unity is correct.
- 2. We cannot the part of the plan and leave some parts.
- 3. Are we wiling to follow it?
 - a. Will you worship the 1 true God?
 - b. Do you believe in the 1 Lord Jesus Christ?

- c. Will you accept the revelation of the 1 Holy Spirit?
 - d. Do you have the 1 hope of heaven?
 - e. Are you in the 1 body, the church you read of in the N.T.
 - f. Do you believe and follow the 1 faith, the doctrine of Christ?
 - g. Have you been buried with Christ for the remission of your sins - the 1 baptism?
4. This is God's plan for unity. We cannot improve upon it or change it; obey it now.
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