

Ephesians 4.4-6

We have seen in the first of this chapter Paul's lesson on how we should be living and how we need to have personal responsibility in all of our relationships. Here we see how we are to look at the Christian community as a whole. It is our spiritual relationship with others Paul addresses here.

Define "church" for me. What is the church? Who makes it up and who does it benefit? What are the parameters for making a church and what determines a church?

1. One Body – Paul tells us here that we are all one in the body of Christ. The bible says that Jesus is the church and that He is the body of the church, therefore we are all part of the body of Christ and one body. We Christians are the body of Christ. While we are all different in function, we are all necessary to function as a body. 1 Co 12:12-28
2. One Spirit – What is the spirit of Christ? What does that mean to us as Christians? Remember, Christ in you and you in Christ. We are to represent Christ's spirit at all times. How is that working for you today? 1 Co 12:12-28
3. One Hope – What is the one thing that you really hope is true about your salvation? What is the great hope for the Christian? Col 1:27; 1 Thes 4:13
4. One Lord – we all have just one person we are responsibility to obey. Jesus Christ. We need one to obey his commandments and follow Him for success in this life and the life hereafter. Exodus 20:3; Matt 22:36-40
5. One Faith – What is faith? How can we have one faith but so many things we must have faith in? What is it about faith in God that is different? This one faith is the only faith we need for Salvation and that is all we need for eternal life. (Beware of different faiths – Harold Camping – the rapture May 21, 2011)
6. One Baptism – There is only one baptism for the believer. There are many who say you are baptized with water and spirit and then several other things to make you a complete Christian. Jesus was baptized and John was baptized. They both had only one baptism. It was by water as an outward sign of their inward decision, which is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which brings us into unity with the body of Christ.
7. One God – The verse says, "God and Father", but some translate it as "God is Father". That really means that God has more than one relationship as a father. (1) He is father of all men because he created all men. (Gen 1:26) (2) He is the Father of Jesus Christ (Matt 3:17) (3) He is the Father of Israel (Ex4:22) (4) He is the Father of all believers (Gal 3:26; 4:7)