

A Requirement For Unity

What will it take to achieve the unity of the church we read about in the New Testament (Acts 2:37-47)? This was the church Jesus promised to build (Matt 16:18). This was the church established on the foundation of the apostles, prophets and Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone (Eph 2:20). This was the church that stood united on the seven tiered platform of unity: one body, one Holy Spirit, one hope, one Lord Jesus, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all (Eph 4:4-5).

So did God ever amend His will to allow for differing religious organizations and doctrines? Is Christ pleased with the many faiths, baptisms and organizations that employ His name? Does the Holy Spirit's message in the New Testament indicate God's approval of the divisions among believers in Christ? No, obviously. So how may we begin to achieve unity in Christ? We may begin by returning to the simple organization of the New Testament church.

The church has only Christ as its head (Eph 1:20-23; Col 1:18; Matt 28:18; Eph 5:23-25); it has no earthly head or headquarters. As a head is positioned above the body to direct the body, even so Christ is seated at God's "right hand in the heavenly places" to direct the affairs of His body the church. From His exalted throne in heaven He rules over His church, through His word, until He comes again at the end of time (Dan 7:13-14; Acts 2:29-36; Jn 12:48; 2 Jn 9; 1 Cor 15:23-28). In next month's article, we will explain the simplicity of organization that characterized the New Testament church.

Green Meadow church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.