

ETERNAL ONENESS

1 Corinthians 12:13 Berean Literal Bible

*For in (en) **one [1] Spirit** we all were baptized into [eis] **one [1] body**, whether Jews or Greeks (Culture), whether slaves or free (Status), and we were all made to drink **one [1] Spirit**.*

Since we've come into the fuller revelation of the Grace of God and the finished work of Christ, we've found ... many things that we were trying to achieve and attain ... God has already achieved and attained for us ... for instance ...

FORGIVENESS: We've found that when we sin, we don't need to keep begging God for forgiveness ... because God in Christ Jesus has forgiven us all sin, past, present and future, when Jesus cried, 'It is finished'.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: We realised we no longer need to try to become righteous by trying to be good because we have Christ's righteousness imputed and imparted to us. (2 Cor 5:21)

SANCTIFICATION: We've stopped trying to become sanctified because we realise Christ Himself has been made to us all wisdom, righteousness and SANCTIFICATION. (1 Cor 1:30)

ACCEPTANCE: We've also found we don't have to try to perform to be accepted by God as now in Christ, we are accepted in the Son of His Love unconditionally. (Ephesians :6)

BLESSING: We've found that praying for blessing is wrong because we have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 1:3)

ONENESS: So here today, we're discovering another great quality that we've tried to achieve among ourselves that God has already provided ... and **that is Unity**. It has been given to us already ... complete and in pristine condition in Christ. **(1 Cor 12:13 ABOVE)**

The problem is ... we don't understand that we have already been given 'Oneness' and neither do we understand what this 'Oneness' is that we have been given.

In the early years of my Christian experience, I heard many sermons about how we should become 'ONE' ... principles were taught ... and we all sang songs like ... 'Bind Us Together and 'Father Make Us One', only to now find out ... God has already made us 'ONE' and we are In Christ, all united. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

TO UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL ... WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF GOD'S 'ETERNAL ONENESS'.

THE ONENESS OF GOD IS A SPIRITUAL STATE IN WHICH GOD EXISTS

We think of Oneness or Unity as **people coming together** – as a uniting of people's hearts or minds or purpose ... But God's Oneness is far more ... **It is a pre-existing Spiritual state.**

SLIDE THIS ONENESS of God doesn't come about because perfect unity and harmony have been achieved ...

Perfect unity and harmony come about because there is THIS ONENESS ... **GOD HAS 'ETERNAL ONENESS'.**

This oneness is not the absence of division ... **just as God's peace is not the absence of war.** Peace is a spiritual essence that cancels war ... so Oneness is a spiritual essence that cancels all division.

IT IS A SPIRITUAL QUALITY OF HIS CHARACTER IN WHICH THE 3 PERSONS OF THE TRINITY EXIST IN PERFECT UNITY AND HARMONY.

'ONENESS' ALWAYS WAS WITH GOD AND WILL ALWAYS BE. HE HAS NEVER KNOWN ANYTHING BUT 'ONENESS'. Oneness is in His inherent nature. God cannot ever be divided.

LOOK AT THIS ONENESS OF GOD:

A long, long time ago before the world began there existed a magnificent being called 'God'.

The Jews called Him 'Elohim', 'Lord... But THE WORD IS PLURAL YET INDIVISIBLE.

Deuteronomy 6:4 **(SLIDE)**

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Echad (ek-awd) = the Numeral One ... Not the pronoun as in, 'The One'.

In Greek Jesus quoted, 'He is', again the Numeral.

The Lord one is (Mark 12:29)

"Jehovah our Elohim (plural) is one Jehovah."

- Means more than **THE ONLY ONE** and none other!
- **Means a unity unique to God Himself ... INDIVISIBLE ...**

Barnes writes: *These words – the "Shema" (Hear O Israel ...) belong to the daily morning and evening office in Jewish Services. It is 'the creed of the Jews'. However, this is far more than a mere declaration of the unity of God against polytheism ... but His unity in Himself.*

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown:

The basis of their religion was an acknowledgment of the unity of God.

It is a character trait ... **It is akin to 'God is Love' ... So also, 'God is One'.**

We know what 'love' is (somewhat) ... **But we do not know what 'ONE' is ...**

THE FIRST ARGUMENT AND DOMESTIC DISPUTE.

Adam and Eve knew this oneness. They were in perfect harmony with God, in themselves **(they had perfect balance of 'spirit, soul and body')**. They were in harmony with each other and with creation until the fall. Then we immediately heard the first argument.

Adam accused Eve ... Eve accused the serpent. Adam said, **'She made me do it!'**

She said, 'Did not! You're the one God spoke to! You and the serpent made me do it'.

FROM THEN ON, ALL HUMANITY INHERITED 'DISUNITY'

THE WORLD NOW CRAVES TO HAVE THIS ETERNAL ONENESS BUT CAN NEVER ACHIEVE IT. Imagine all the people ... Living life in peace... You may say I'm a dreamer ... But I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us and **the world will be as one - JOHN LENNON**

JESUS PRAYED FOR US TO KNOW 'THIS ONENESS OF GOD'.

WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THIS ETERNAL ONENESS ... WE UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY WHAT JESUS WAS PRAYING FOR IN HIS HIGH-PRIESTLY PRAYER IN JOHN 17.

John 17:11 **(SLIDE)**

*Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that they may be one as We are.***

One internally ... One externally ... One relationally ... One completely ...

John 17: 20-23 SLIDE

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

JESUS UNDERSTOOD WE COULD NEVER '**BE ONE**' WITHOUT '**GOD'S ETERNAL ONENESS**'.
SLIDE TO BE TRULY ONE ... WE NEED TO ENTER THE DIVINE SPIRITUAL STATE OF ONENESS THAT EXISTED BEFORE TIME.

THIS IS WHAT JESUS PRAYED FOR, FOR YOU AND ME ... that this amazing quality of 'Eternal Oneness' would come to pass in our lives here in this world-time dimension.

Jesus wasn't just praying for us **to get on together** ... *that we would be ... one in belief ... one in purpose ... one in unity ... one politically ... one emotionally ...*

Jesus prayed we would be infused with the spiritual state of God's Oneness ...
immersed into God's Oneness ...

JESUS ALSO KNEW THE WILL OF GOD THAT HE HAD PURPOSED FOR US TO SHARE IN THIS 'ETERNAL ONENESS' FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME

Ephesians 1:9-10 SLIDE

Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ezekiel 11:19 SLIDE

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel foretells here of the Church. In Ezekiel 36:26 it speaks of our personal regeneration - **PERSONALLY, IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A NEW UNDIVIDED HEART.**

But Ezekiel 11:19 is not about the individual but the **church Unity of Heart!**

Ezekiel 11:19 IS WHAT JESUS PRAYED FOR IN HIS HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER

Jesus had been a part of this unity before time began.

JESUS PRAYED THE WILL OF THE FATHER ...

WHAT JESUS PRAYED ALWAYS CAME TO PASS ...

NB: When Jesus prayed His human prayer in Gethsemane ... 'If it be possible take this cup from me', **if Jesus hadn't retracted this prayer saying, 'Nevertheless let not My will be done but Yours' ... God would have heard Him and delivered Him and we would have all been lost for eternity.**
The Father always answered every prayer Jesus prayed.

SO WHEN DID GOD ANSWER THIS PRAYER ABOUT US INHERITING THIS ONENESS?
This came to pass after the Cross and Resurrection.

After the Resurrection God restored His Oneness to the church.

Ephesians 2:14-16 **SLIDE**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made **both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man** from the two, thus making peace ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

Acts 1:14 **SLIDE OF ALL THE ACTS SCRIPTURES BELOW**

*These all continued with **one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Acts 2:1

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord (together) in one place.***

Acts 2:46

*So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.*

Acts 4:3(-5:11)

*Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.*

Acts 5:12

*And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with **one accord** in Solomon's Porch.*

There is ONLY one place on earth where this Oneness exists - the Body of Christ
... described in 7 statements:

Ephesians 4:4-6 **SLIDE**

*There **is one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called in **one** hope of your calling; ⁵ **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; ⁶ **one** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

7 points we will all have in this Oneness. **BUT WE HAVE IT NOW!!!**

SO, IF WE HAVE THIS 'Eternal ONENESS' ...

WHAT GOES WRONG? WHY DON'T WE SEE IT AND FEEL IT TODAY IN THE CHURCH?

Where do all the dissensions come from?

Well James answers this question ...

James 4:1 **SLIDE**

*Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that **war in your members?***

We allow our flesh to rule.

QUARRELS ARISING FROM PRIDE AND GREED.

Look at how we are doing with this in Church today?

The *Ashville Citizen-Times* reported that **local police were called to break up a brawl** this past Sunday at Greater New Zion Baptist Church in Fletcher, North Carolina. Apparently church members were divided over the dismissal of the pastor, Rev. LeVonja Ray, and the fist-fight began among about 75 members over whether a vote should be taken to reinstate him.

No word has been given on when the final decision will be made.

One church split over a piano bench — that one was resolved by having two services, one where the piano bench was taken outside for the service and the other where it was dragged back into the church.

One church split over the spelling of the word "hallelujah". Another over the colour of the proposed carpet.

THESE FELLOWSHIPS ARE NOT LIVING IN THE SPIRIT ... BUT LIVING IN THE FLESH.

SATAN USES THE FLESH LIKE 'THE FIFTH COLUMN'

Proverbs 6:16-19 **SLIDE**

These six things the LORD hates,

Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

- 1. A proud look,*
- 2. A lying tongue,*
- 3. Hands that shed innocent blood,*
- 4. A heart that devises wicked plans,*

5. Feet that are swift in running to evil,

6. A false witness who speaks lies,

All these things create schisms and divisions but look at the one behind them all -

7. AND ONE WHO SOWS DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN. - THIS IS SATAN HIMSELF.

SATAN USES OUR FLESH TO TAKE US AWAY FROM THE ONENESS OF OUR SPIRIT.

To divert us from what we already have in Christ.

THE NAZI TACTIC WAS, 'DIVIDE AND CONQUER'.

THIS IS WHAT WE NEED TO ENDEAVOUR TO GUARD AGAINST TO KEEP THE ONENESS WE HAVE.

Ephesians 4:3

Endeavouring to *keep* the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Keep = to preserve (tērein) from teros; to guard, to detain; to withhold.

Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ('KEEP' = SAME ROOT WORD AS USED ABOVE)

We are already in the Love of God. The Flesh can take us away from who we are.

FB: When we first believed in Jesus Christ our Saviour, another amazing gift of grace we instantly received was, 'Eternal Oneness'!

This means, we were instantly joined to the Lord in one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

This also means we were also instantly, spiritually joined to every other born again believer on the planet and in Heaven (Ephesians 3:15). We entered into 'Eternal Oneness' with God and all His people (1 Corinthians 12:13).

It is this 'Unity of the Spirit' that Paul tells us we should endeavour to KEEP (Ephesians 4:3).

Ephesians 4:31-32 SLIDE

*Let all bitterness, rage, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be **put away from you**, with all malice.³² And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

NB: 'Put away from YOU!' These fleshly works are not us!

Slide MAN SHOVELLING WORKS OF THE FLESH AWAY ...

Slide HOW DO I SHOVEL AWAY MY FLESHLY WORKS?

I CONSTANTLY FORGIVE.

HOW DO I KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT?

I CONSTANTLY FORGIVE.

THE NEW CREATION PERSON YOU ARE, WALKS IN FORGIVENESS ...

THE FLESH HOLDS GRUDGES ...

You know that whenever animosity arises in you ... you feel upset with someone ...
Recognise it as the flesh and not who you are.

THIS IS NOT THE NEW YOU ...

THE NEW YOU LIVES IN PERFECT HARMONY IN A STATE OF ETERNAL ONENESS.

FORGIVENESS IS A GOOD WORK OF THE SPIRIT.

Mother Teresa

We must make our homes centres of love and compassion and forgive endlessly.

More correctly ...

We must recognise our family is a centre of love and compassion and forgive endlessly.

WE HAVE THIS ETERNAL ONENESS. LET'S TREASURE IT AND DETERMINE TO KEEP IT