



## ***Ephesians 4:4-6***

### **The Essence of Christian Unity**

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## **One Body and One Spirit**

### **Ephesians 4:4a (NASB)**

There is one body and one Spirit

- God created the "one body" (Eph. 2:15)
- This one body is the church universal
- The focus is on the church which is thematic in Ephesians
- "One" is repeated 7 times in vss 4-6 to strongly emphasize unity
- The Holy Spirit incorporates all who believe into the body of Christ

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## **One Hope**

### **Ephesians 4:4b (NASB)**

just as also you were called in one hope of your calling

- Gospel hope is grounded in the action of God in Christ to secure our salvation
- Hope is a product of God's eternal plan revealed in Ephesians 1-3
- "Of your calling" here denotes "hope produced by your call" (internal call)

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## **One Lord and One Faith**

### **Ephesians 4:5a (NASB)**

one Lord, one faith

- The "one Lord" is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 8:6)
- Jesus is called "Lord" 8 times in Ephesians
- Confession of Jesus as Lord is linked to salvation in Romans 10:9
- Faith means either "the faith" or personal faith, there is disagreement on this
- Ephesians 4:13 = "the unity of the faith"

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## One Baptism

### Ephesians 4:5b (NASB)

one baptism

- This most likely refers to baptism in water
- Baptism in water is loaded with significance in the NT
- Church history contains much dispute about baptism, but we must always go back to Scripture alone as our authority
- Baptism signifies identification with Christ (see Romans 6:3-5)

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## One God and Father

### Ephesians 4:6 (NASB)

one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

- The whole section (4-6) is Trinitarian
- “Shema” (Deut. 6:4) says “Yahweh is one”
- Malachi 2:10a LXX makes a statement that contains some of these words
- There is disagreement on whether “all” refers only to believers or creation
- Both ideas can be found in Ephesians

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## Implications and Applications

- Believers are never without hope
- Hope is grounded in the promises of God
- God who called us will surely keep us

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## Hope for the Hopeless

### Ephesians 2:12, 13 (NASB)

*remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God** in the world. But now in Christ Jesus **you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

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## Hope and the Promises of God

### **Romans 8:24, 25 (NASB)**

For **in hope we have been saved**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

- The need for hope is because of “futility” and “slavery to corruption” (vss 20, 21)
- God has promised future glory (vs 30)

## Calling Implies Completion

### **1 Corinthians 1:8, 9 (NASB)**

Who will also **confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The “called” are those kept safe until the end (eschatological salvation)
- “Blameless in the day” implies being guiltless at the final judgment