One Church

Greg Kline · Ephesians 4:4–6

INTRODUCTION

- Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means. How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- And thus this line, this separation of those who are alive spiritually and those who are condemned to hell, are those who are found obeying or transgressing the law of God.
- If we were to look at the New Testament church and recognize that, well, the church is subject to the will of God as well.

1 The Seed Is the Word of God

Luke 8:11; Matthew 16:18

- The seed is the word of God.
- If I were to plant an orange tree seed, what's going to grow up from that? Well, hopefully an orange tree.
- If we as a church were to only do what the word of God commands, allows, or shows, what practices would we be exactly like in every way? The church that was in the New Testament.

2 There Is One Body, His Church

Ephesians 4:4–6; Ephesians 1:22–23

- There is one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.
- And gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- There is one body. There is one church. So we need to make sure that we are part of that church.
- If there is but one Lord, one body which is His Church, we better be in that church.

3 A Biblical Name and No Creed

Romans 16:16; Acts 11:26; Galatians 1:6–8

- If we are to be like the New Testament church, we should take on a name of the New Testament church.
- Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preach to you, let him be accursed.
- There is one gospel. There is one message. Nothing is to be added to it.
- Either it adds or subtracts something from the Word of God, or it is a useless document because we have the Word of God.

4 Organization of the Church

Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1–5

- To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

- Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you, not for shameful gain, but eagerly, not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
- They are to care for those of us who are here and under their guidance and their protection. This isn't about domination.
- The offices of a church are held and they all have their distinct function, but it all comes back to one goal.

5 That Spirit of Unity and Love

Ephesians 2:11–16; Matthew 18

- For he himself is our peace who has made us both one. And it's broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.
- Christ tore down the wall that separated the Jews and the Gentiles. And we better be of that spirit of unity and kindness and love and zeal for God.
- We must always exhibit the love and grace and mercy that we take from God to all others for any reason, regardless of their background, their race, religion, or prior church membership.
- We are to love one another and don't be fooled. That is very much a New Testament church characteristic.

6 Worship and the Purpose of the Church

Ephesians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 6

- Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord in your heart.
- If I take of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, I know I fulfilled God's commands.
- This is the combining of individual Christians that not only worship God, but should be a beacon of light to the world.
- We must be careful to not only take care of our own, but to be teaching the word.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **It is time to die this morning if you haven't yet. Die now so that you can live for all of eternity.**

MY NOTES