

# THE PLATFORM OF CHRISTIAN UNITY (1)

BY KEITH GREER

Biblical unity is a subject that many in the religious world like to discuss. Yet, if one takes a good look at so-called Christendom, he sees disunity, division, strife, factions, and sects. Sadly, this is also true in the body of Christ. Many sects have been established; churches have divided; and factions have sprung up. This has created a wave of different church brands, each with its own particular tenets of faith, creed, doctrine, and worship. This shouldn't surprise us. In His final hours before going to the cross, Jesus prayed regarding what would happen after His departure. *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 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."* {John 17:20,21}

Jesus knew that a divided following would bring infidelity! He knew that if people obeyed the apostles' doctrine, believed on Him, and stood united, the result would be the world's belief that God had sent His Son. Division and discord would plant seeds of doubt and result in unbelief among the masses. The religious world recognizes the need for unity. There have been many conferences, synods, conventions, and unity meetings seeking to find the key to oneness. Such ecumenical councils have brought nothing but more confusion. Sectarianism, and selfish ambition on the part of individuals who seek to get others to follow their particular positions lead to more division—not unity. There must be a better answer. Let us examine the platform of unity laid down by the King of Peace.

**Discarding human creeds.** *"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."* {Psalm 127:1} Men need to heed the Master's words. The church at Corinth had its own unity problems. Paul wrote them saying, *"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* {1 Corinthians 1:10} This is the picture the Lord wants the world to see.

Religious thinkers have been unable to solve the great Biblical-unity problem. If we're honest, we must affirm that man's plans and schemes have miserably failed at bringing the planned results. However, where man fails, Christ's plan can succeed. *"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with*

*which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” {Ephesians 4:1-3}* In the verses that followed, God listed SEVEN unique planks, each of which is absolutely essential to true Biblical unity. We cannot add or subtract planks without destroying God’s plan.

**One Body—A Unified Organization.** *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” {Ephesians 4:4}* How many bodies are there? Many believe there are many bodies. Yet, Christ is the head of only ONE—His *{Ephesians 1:22,23}*. He promised to build one church *{Matthew 16:18}*. His one body is the one church *{Colossians 1:18}*. Paul told the Corinthians there were many members but only one body *{1 Corinthians 12:20}*. Jesus’ blood purchased only one church *{Acts 20:28}*. He is the Savior of the one body *{Ephesians 5:25}*.

Sadly, today we have more than 1500 religious bodies in our own country and various sects within those bodies. Needless to say confusion and chaos is all around the religious world in trying to sort through these “differing bodies.” Which one is right? Can they all be right? Do men just have to make their choice of one over the other? Listening to the so-called religious experts today, it’s just a matter of choice and preference and “one is just as good as another.” Unfortunately, these experts have never considered what God’s understanding is on the subject! \*\*\*