

THE PLATFORM OF CHRISTIAN UNITY (2)

BY KEITH GREER

One Spirit—Unity of Life. *“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 4:4-6}* John wrote, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” {1 John 4:1}* God sent only one witness—the Holy Spirit—to reveal His mind to mankind. Please read *1 Corinthians 2:9-13*. By that one Spirit, we are baptized into one body {*1 Corinthians 12:13*}. Every member of that body must allow the one Spirit to lead him in his Christian walk {*Romans 8:14*}. In Paul’s epistle to the churches of Galatia, he affirmed the same thought {*Galatians 5:16,18*}. When we walk according to that one Spirit’s teaching, our lives harmonize with the lives of other believers in Christ’s body.

One Hope—Unity of Purpose. *“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 4:4-6}* All Christians have hope because of Christ. Our citizenship is not on earth, but in heaven itself {*Philippians 3:20,21*}. Every faithful child of God has a hope of heaven because of Christ’s death {*Colossians 1:5*}. We take refuge in that hope, the one thing that makes us feel secure {*Hebrews 6:16-19*}. Because of our Lord’s resurrection from the dead, we have hope of life beyond the grave {*1 Corinthians 15:12-19*}. Now, we have hope, but one day—when Christ returns—that hope will become reality. *“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” {Romans 9:24,25}*

One Lord—Unity of Authority. *“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 4:4-6}* All authority resides in Christ {*Matthew 28:18*}. Whatever we do in religion must be done by His authority; otherwise, it will be rejected {*Colossians 3:17*}. His words will judge us in the last day {*John 12:48*}. Anyone who speaks must speak as the Oracles of God {*1 Peter 4:11*}. The words THUS SAITH THE LORD assures unity!

One Faith—Unity of Doctrine. We must all come to the unity of the faith {*Ephesians 4:13*}. This faith was delivered to the saints only once {*Jude 3*}. Paul very beautifully explained it to the church in Philippi {*Philippians 1:27*}. There is no other doctrine {*Galatians 1:8,9*}.

One Baptism—Unity of Induction. Jesus sent the disciples out to baptize those who believed {*Mark 16:16*}. This is the example followed by every convert in the book of Acts. Numerous passages {*Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:11,12; Galatians 3:26,27*} teach this truth.

One God—Unity of Worship. We must worship God {*Matthew 4:10*}. We can only worship Him—we can't even worship angels {*Revelation 22:8,9*}. God's people can have only one object of their worship—the Father; otherwise, our worship will surely be rejected!

If we put these seven planks (***God's pattern***) securely in place, the result will be true Biblical unity—it works every time. Factions, divisions, and disunity will disappear in an instant. It's very simple—yet, people continue to fight against it! ***