

## IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

It is not unusual to hear someone make the statement, "I believe that one church is as good as another". Many times Christians have a hard time responding to that statement because they are afraid they will anger the one who said it and turn them away from being teachable. There are some that make such a statement, that are seeking to hear words to which they can take offense. Any answer give will be grounds for anger to them. However, most that make such a statement are just Biblically ignorant and are repeating that which they have heard most of their life. For these, there is a very simple method of showing them that one church **"can't be"** as good as another.

Ephesians 4:4-6 contains what we often call the seven plank platform for unity. After reading all three verses we might begin with taking note of the fact that according to verse six, there is just one God. Even though there are religions that practice polytheism (multiple gods), you are not likely talking to one of this strip, thus they readily agree that there is only one God the Father. Then ask them if they believe one God is as good as another.

Ephesians 4:5 tells us that there is one Lord. Jesus Christ is King of kings, and Lord of lords (I Tim. 6:15), made both Lord and Christ by God the Father (Acts 2:36). Some like Charles Manson have claimed to be Jesus, but likely the person to whom we are speaking will readily agree that there is just one real Jesus Christ. Thus, they can be asked if they believe one Lord is as good as another.

According to the text, there is also just one Spirit (v. 4). Since there is only one Holy Spirit, do you suppose one Holy Spirit is as good as another?

Now let's just jump to the chase. Ephesians 4:4 says, "There is one body...". Earlier in the same epistle, Paul wrote, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body..." (Eph. 1:22-23). The body is the church and the text says there is only one church. If one God the Father is not as good as another; one Lord Jesus Christ is not as good as another; one Holy Spirit is not as good as another; is it possible that since God said that there is just one of each of these, that one church is not as good as another, since God said that there is just one true church?

There is no doubt that some will reject the clear conclusion of this but those who are honest will.

*Robert*

## FINDING THE ONE TRUE CHURCH

Any honest reader of the Bible will have to admit that there is only one church authorized by the word of God (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). All that are to be saved are added to that church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18). Unity of all believers was prayed for by the Lord (John 17:21) and commanded by the inspired apostle Paul (I Cor. 1:10). Yet, today there are multitudes of religious organizations, or denominations, claiming to be the Lord's church. So, how does one go about determining which is really the one true church?

First one can determine the one true church by the founder. Jesus said "...I will build my church..."(Matt. 16:18). A little research will easily reveal the founder of every denomination in the world today. Various men have been the founders, thus when a founder is determined, and that founder is not the Lord, but some mere man, that church is not the one true church.

Secondly, one can determine by the date of establishment or founding. The Lord's church had it's beginning on the first Pentecost following the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of the Lord (Acts 2). Space will not allow a full revealing of the prophecies and facts that prove this to be the date, but just note that every time it is spoken of prior to Acts chapter two, it is in the future tense and every time following Acts chapter two, it is in the present tense. Again, every denomination can be traced back to its beginning time or date. Every denomination in the land had its beginning at least fifteen hundred years after the one true church was established by the Lord. If the date of founding is not that first Pentecost of Acts chapter two, then the church in question is not the one true church.

Thirdly, one can determine by the doctrine and practice of the church. The one true church was to be directed by the doctrines espoused by the Holy Spirit inspired men the Lord sent to take the gospel into all the world (Matt. 16:19-20; John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13; Mark 16:15). Any doctrine or practice that is embraced and taught or practiced by a religious organization, other than what is found in the pages of the New Testament is a testament to the fact that that organization is not the one true church.

Salvation is found only in the body of Christ. This makes finding the one true church absolutely mandatory!

*Robert*