

One God
Ephesians 4:4-10

I. Intro

- A. Lake Texoma Baptism night: June 11
 - 1. Are you needing to follow the Lord in believers baptism?
 - 2. Are you willing to identify with Christ in baptism?
 - 3. We will have a special night just for that!
- B. Last Week: Walk worthy, walking worthy includes humility, gentleness, patience, love, unity.
- C. We find the foundation of that calling this week.
- D. We do not get to decide God's plan, we get to discover God's plan!
- E. But, never forget, it is His plan and mission.

II. Text

- A. Verses 4-6
 - 1. Unity is a huge part of the work of God in us.
 - 2. When we are all surrendered to the one true God, we are effective in ministry, blessed in life, and do not live for ourselves.
- B. Verse 7:
 - 1. Grace Given according to Christ's gift
 - 2. He has measured out how much grace was needed, and provided abundantly.
 - 3. God's grace is enough, and it never runs out.
- C. Verses 8-10:
 - 1. In the apostles creed there is a line based upon this section of verses

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

- 2. It says, He descended into hell...
- 3. I do not believe that is what is actually being communicated here:
 - a) He descended to the lower earthly region...to lead captivity captive
 - b) Death/burial and resurrection did this.
 - c) Jesus left the throne room of heaven and walked humbly and perfectly among men, to die in our place, and then raise from the dead. He then ascended to heaven, from where He came.

III. Points

- A. One God, One Source
 - 1. One

- a) Body: the church
 - b) Spirit: of God
 - c) Hope: Salvation in Christ alone
 - d) Lord: Jesus is Lord!
 - e) Faith: Believe in Jesus!
 - f) Baptism: Immersed into all of God
 - g) God: Have no other God's before you
 - h) Father: He is our authority!
2. Unity is possible because there is One God. (Hard to see sometimes in our world)
 3. Scripture Reference:
 - a) This is in reference to 3:14, referring to all of us coming from One God
 - b) This is in reference to Chapter 2 teaching we are one in Christ: those who were far off, and those who are near
 4. One God, three persons: TRINITY
 - a) John 1:
 - b) Revelation 1
 - c) The Trinity is a reminder of our limited understanding of the fullness of God, yet we know this truth that surpasses knowledge. (Ephesians 3:19)
- B. One Christ, One Grace
1. Verse 7 is so powerful!
 2. The person filled with the Spirit has been given a living hope:
 - a) This living hope manifests itself in a life change
 - b) Manifests itself in a power
 - c) Manifests itself in worship
 - d) Manifests itself in the using of gifts
 3. We are brought into a beautiful family, called the church, to use the gifts measured out to us by Christ Himself:
 - a) A gift is the Spirit doing something through the believer
 - b) Combining with the gifts given to others in the body of believers
 - c) Gifts are given to profit the church, and intended to be combined with others in the body to do the larger work.
 4. The beauty of the work of the church is GRACE!
 - a) Grace should be seen in the way we stand for truth
 - b) The way we walk worthy
 - c) The way we submit.
 - d) WE ARE COVERED BY GRACE, and GRACE IMPACTS OUR WORLD THROUGH THE CHURCH
 - (1) How has the world seen the grace of God through your life?
 - (2) Are you
- C. One Spirit, One Purpose
1. The Spirit's work is going out through the empowered church, for the purpose God in redeeming mankind!
 2. This is one of my favorite truth's in the Bible:
 - a) God chose us
 - b) God became flesh and became our perfect sacrifice
 - c) God is now at work through the church bringing rescue to fallen humanity!
 3. The gospel is our purpose, because it is HIS purpose!
 - a) We are now empowered to use our gifts given by the Spirit to continue the ministry that began long ago.
 - b) We are the CHURCH!
 - c) We are the BODY!
 - d) We are the people SENT!
 4. Where does this go wrong?
 - a) When we think the gifts are given to us for our benefit alone

- b) When we become consumers in the fellowship rather than participants.
- c) When we veil our humanism with a version of Christianity that does not match up to the mission of Christ.

IV. Close

[Eph 4:4-10 ESV] 4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)