

# THE UNIQUE NATURE OF GOD'S FAITHFUL FAMILY

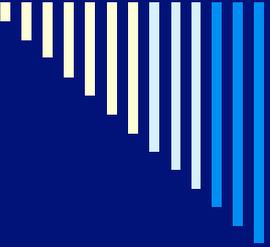
Ephesians 4:1-6

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**Church of the Covered Dish** by Thom Tapp



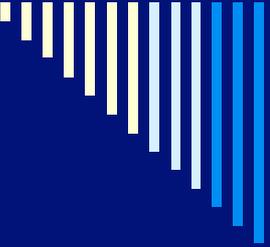
“Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff.”



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# INTRODUCTION

- Paul invites the Ephesians to live a life worthy of their calling in unity.
  - This requires:
    1. Lowliness – humility.
    2. Gentleness – meekness.
    3. Bearing with one another in love.
    4. Keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
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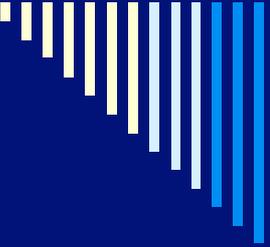


# GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY

## □ ONE BODY – The Unity of Organization

-- A unique relationship and purpose.

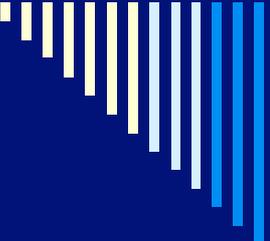
1. Eph. 1:22,23 – “And he put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”
  2. Eph. 2:16 – “and that he might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”
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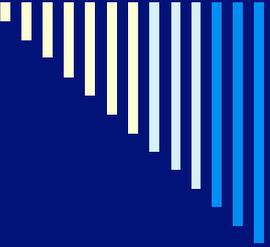
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- **ONE SPIRIT** – Unity of Revelation – The Spirit gives life, guides and directs through the word.
    1. John 16:13 – “However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will tell you things to come.”
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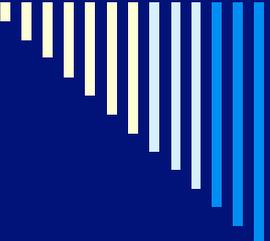
- **ONE HOPE** – Unity of aim – based on the resurrection of Christ and in heaven.
    1. I Peter 1:3,4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (4) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”
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# GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY

- **ONE LORD** – Unity of Authority – Both man and God, came to seek and save the lost, his death for the sins of the world.
    1. I Cor. 8:6 – “yet for us there is only one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through him we live.”
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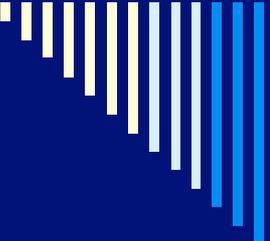
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## □ ONE LORD – Unity of Authority –

2. “Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name. (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

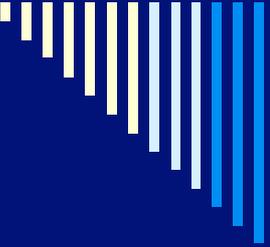
3. Luke 6:46 – “But why do you call me Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

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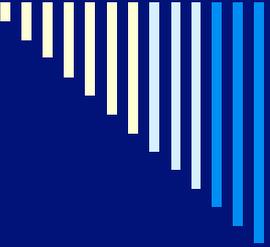
- **ONE FAITH** – Unity of Doctrine – The inspired word of God, message of salvation, obedience required.
    1. Jude 3 – “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
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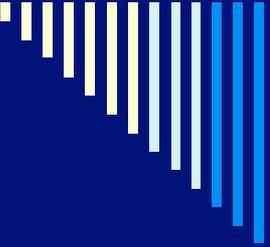
- **ONE FAITH** – Unity of Doctrine – The inspired word of God, message of salvation, obedience required.
    2. Eph. 4:13 – “til we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”
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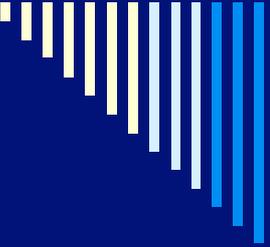
# GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY

- **ONE BAPTISM** – Unity of Practice – spiritual birth in water, brings forgiveness of sins, provides sonship for all who obey.
    1. “Matt. 28:19 – “Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
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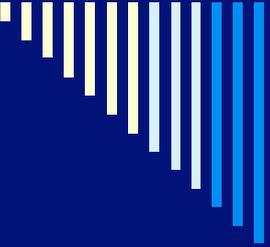
- **ONE BAPTISM** – Unity of Practice – spiritual birth in water, brings forgiveness of sins, provides sonship for all who obey.
    2. Acts 2:38
    3. Acts 22:16
    4. I Peter 3:21 – “There is also now an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
    5. Romans 6:3,4
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# GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY

- **ONE GOD AND FATHER** – Unity of Worship – Love for all, justice for all.
    1. Deut. 6:4 – “Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
    2. Isaiah 43:10 – “You are my witnesses says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he. Before me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after me.”
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# CONCLUSION

- It is God's plan to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.
  - God's description of unity seems to make sense in every phase of life, except religion.
  - Unity is required but it must be on God's terms of faithfulness.
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