

Unity

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In his book “The Eternal Kingdom- A History of the Church” writer F. W. Mattox takes his reader on a journey that begins at the inception of the church of Christ, on the first feast of Pentecost after His resurrection, to her restoration which began early in the nineteenth century (*even though meanwhile some small group[s] of simple New Testament Christians would have continued to exist*). The church, based on the foundation of Peter’s statement professing Jesus as the Christ and Son of God, slipped into a time of apostasy which reportedly began toward the end of the first century and lasted for centuries before reformation and ultimately restoration of the body of Christ on earth would begin. (*There is no need to trace one’s religious heritage to the church’s inception. One only needs to understand and follow the simplicity of the New Testament and in obedience begin her current restoration.*)

In order for union among the denominations to exist it was understood, at that time, that creed books and other man-made doctrines and established governments within the church had to be cast aside in order to allow the God inspired word, the Bible, to be the “common ground” and source of all inquiry in such matters. And even though for a while there was excitement over the idea of allowing only the Bible to guide each individual Biblically self-governed autonomous congregation, once again factions arose and denominationalism continued to be the norm.

There is a need for the unity which Christ prayed for before His crucifixion. The oneness existing between Father and Son has never been accomplished outside of truth but should be the goal for every human who has the intellect and desire to search for truth in all things spiritual. To strive for such a unity would only be accomplished when “self” is replaced with humility and personal interpretation with a “what saith the Lord” attitude. When the apostle John stated “*It does not yet appear what we shall be*” (1 Jn 3:2) he was speaking of the future resurrection of the dead when Jesus comes at the judgment and not the condition of denominationalism later in history. So to pray for unity among the denominations without introspection with humility based on truth, such praying would be in vain and would not be a “*sweet smelling savour*” to the Creator of all things. Truth alone must be the basis for unity among the believers.

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