

There Is One Body

Ephesians 4:4

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There Is One Body

- Salvation found in one body
- Noah's ark
 - Gen. 6:13-15 "And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood ... 15 And this is how you shall make it:"
- *There were many boats in the days of Noah but only one would survive the world-wide flood*



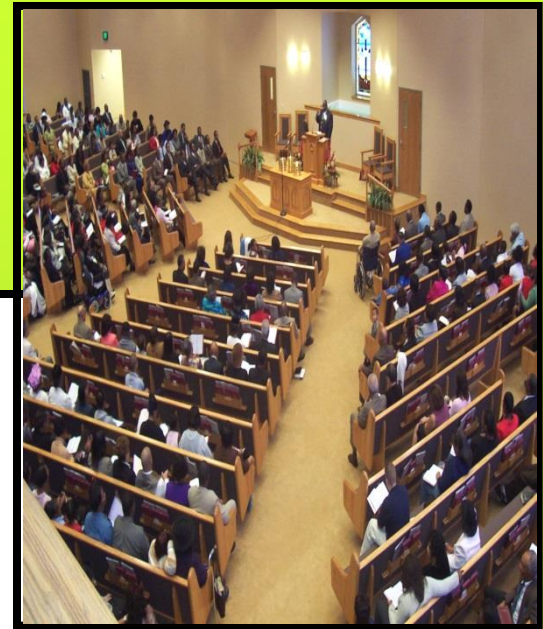
There Is One Body

- Salvation found in one body
- Rahab's house
 - Josh. 6:17 "Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent."
- *There were many houses in Jericho but only one would survive the city's destruction*



There Is One Body

- Salvation found in one body
- Christ's church
 - Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"
 - Eph. 5:23 "... Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"
 - Eph. 4:4 "There is one body ..."
- *There are many religious bodies today but only the church of Christ shall be saved*



There Is One Body

- There is only one way
 - Jn. 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except through me.”
 - Acts 9:1-2, Saul “went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of *the Way*, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”



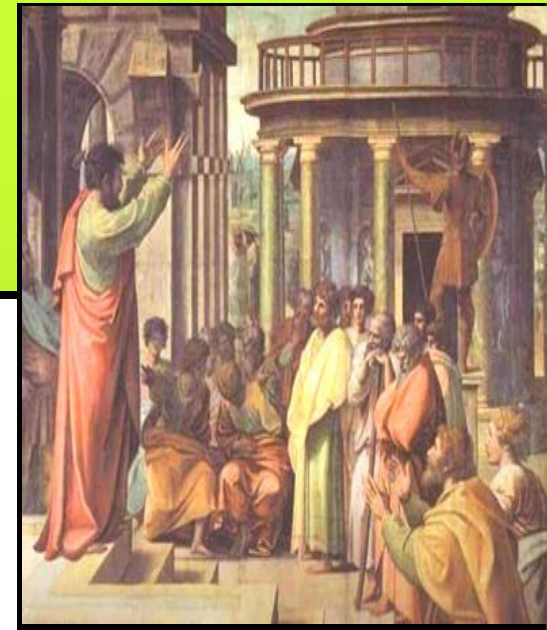
There Is One Body

- There is only one way
 - Acts 16:16-17 “It happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us *the way* of salvation.”



There Is One Body

- There is only one way
 - Acts 19:23-28 “And about that time there arose a great commotion about *the Way*.”
 - Acts 24:14 “But this I confess to you, that according to *the Way* which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers.”



There Is One Body

- Church History
 - During the Reformation there was a great clamor among men to learn more about the Bible and to get back to the Bible



Luther's 95 Theses



Luther



Calvin



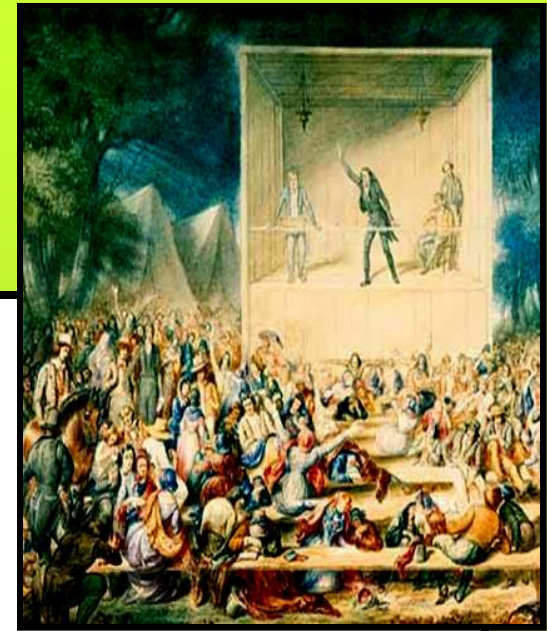
Henry VIII

There Is One Body

- Church History

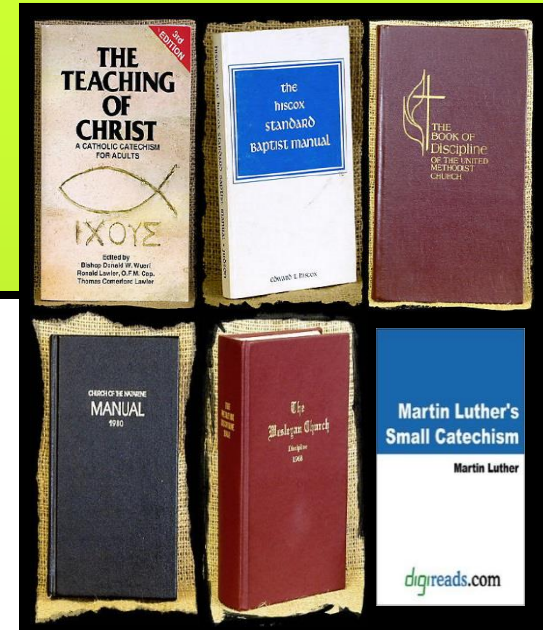
- In the Restoration Movement men sought to restore the New Testament church

- In order to restore the New Testament church human creeds would have to be abandoned



There Is One Body

- What is wrong with creeds?
 - They represent a divided loyalty
 - They often contradict God's will
- Example: The Book of Common Prayer teaches that when you are sprinkled as an infant that baptizes you into Christ



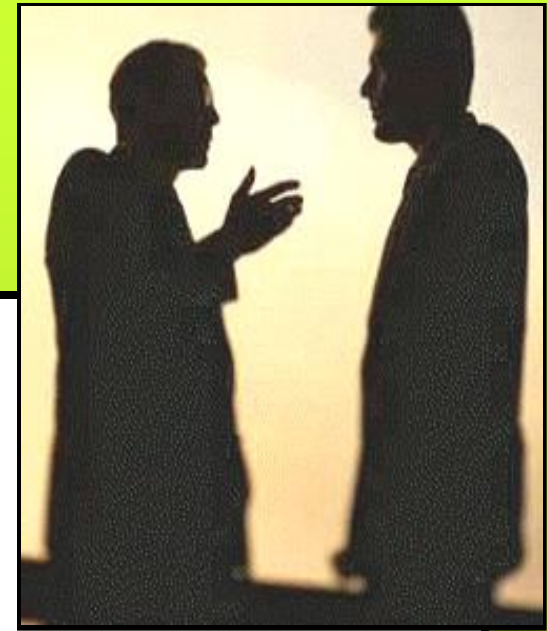


calling one lord, one faith,



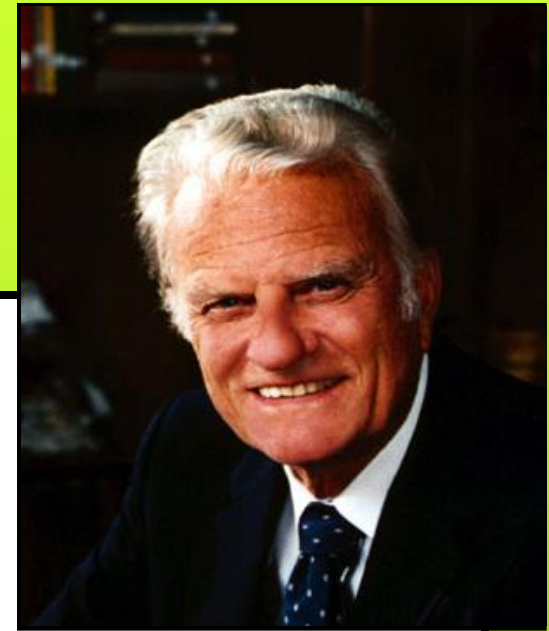
There Is One Body

- What men have said about the church:
 - “Join the church of your choice!”
 - “One church is as good as another”
 - “The church you are a member of is not important”
 - “You can be saved without being in a church”



There Is One Body

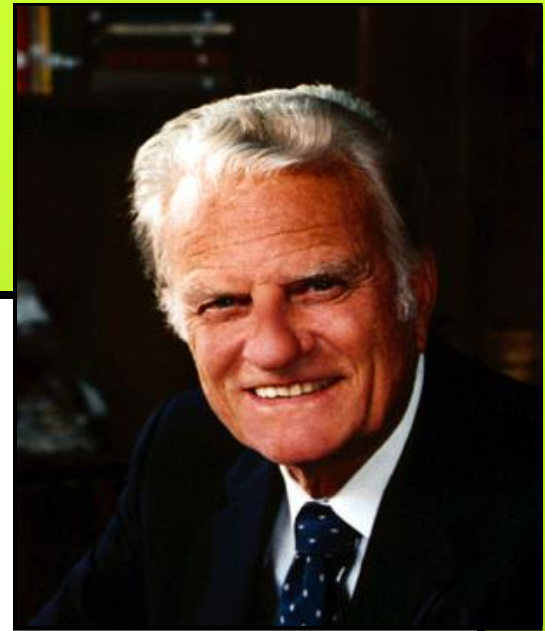
- What men have said about the church:
 - “Many are the routes that lead to God ... everyone goes his own way from God and then everyone must find his own way back”
(Billy Graham, My Answer, Mar. 9, 1954)



Jer. 10:23; Mt. 7:13-14

There Is One Body

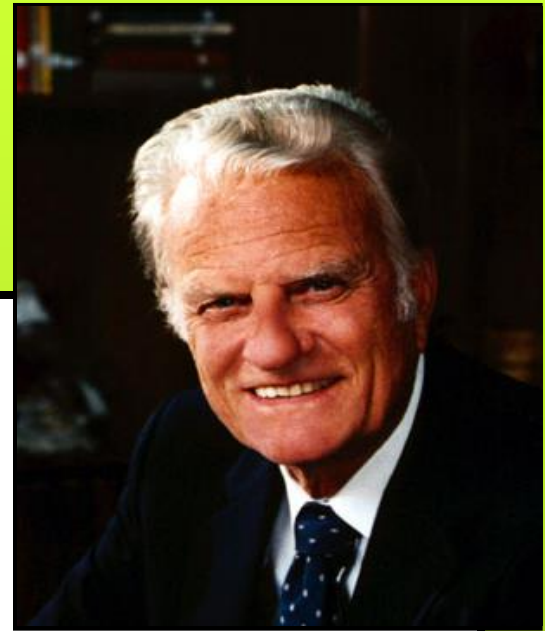
- What men have said about the church:
 - “Real competition serves purpose, even in religion ... If they (the disciples – jnm) were all united into one congregation and under one organization, they might not reach as many people or put as many people to effective work for Christ”
(Billy Graham, My Answer, Mar. 12, 1954)



Jn. 17:11; 1 Cor. 1:10,13

There Is One Body

- What men have said about the church:
 - “Join the church of your choice and glorify God”
(Billy Graham, My Answer, Dec. 15, 1955)



Mt. 16:18; Eph. 3:21; Ps. 127:1

There Is One Body

Hello
my name is

- **The right church has the right name**

- **A name is important because it gives distinction**

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There Is One Body

- Men have churches that glorify other things:

- A Person – Lutheran; Wesleyan; Mennonite; Amish
- A Place – Church of England
- A Practice – Baptist; Methodist
- An Arrangement – Presbyterian; Episcopal
- A Jewish Holy Day – Seventh Day Adventist; Pentecostal
- A Philosophy – Christian Science; Unitarian

Church leaders speak



Martin Luther

Founder of
Lutheran church

- **Martin Luther** (followers called Lutherans):
- "I ask that men make no reference to my name, and call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? My doctrine, I am sure, is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one. St. Paul, in 1 Cor. 3, would not allow Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christian. How then should I, poor, foul carcass that I am, come to have men give to the children of Christ a name derived from my worthless name? No, no, my dear friends; let us abolish all party names, and call ourselves Christians"

(Hugh Thomason Kerr, A Compendia of Luther's Theology; Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1943, p. 135)

Church leaders speak



John Wesley

Founder of
Methodist church

- **John Wesley** (followers called Methodists):
- "Would to God that all party names, and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world, were forgot and that the very name [Methodist] might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion."

(Universal Knowledge, A Dictionary and Encyclopedia of Arts, Science, History, Biography, Law, Literature, Religions, Nations, Races, Customs, and Institutions, Vol. 9, Edward A. Pace, Editor; New York: Universal Knowledge Foundation, 1927, p. 540)

Church leaders speak



Charles
Spurgeon

Famous Baptist

- **Charles Spurgeon** (famous Baptist):
- "I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living! I hope that the Baptist name will soon perish, but let Christ's name last forever."

(Spurgeon Memorial Library, Vol. I., p. 168)

There Is One Body

- **The right church has the right origin**
 - **Time – 30 AD**: “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47)
 - **Place – Jerusalem**: “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established ... Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:2-3)

There Is One Body

- Men have churches with other origins:

• Church	Founder	Place	Year
• Catholic	Boniface III	Rome	606
• Lutheran	Martin Luther	Germany	1530
• Episcopal	Henry VIII	England	1534
• Presbyterian	John Knox	Scotland	1541
• Baptist	John Smyth	England	1607
• Methodist	John Wesley	England	1739

There Is One Body

- Men have churches with other origins:

• Church	Founder	Place	Year
• Mormon	Joseph Smith	New York	1830
• 7th Day Adv.	Ellen G. White	Michigan	1863
• Salvation Army	William Booth	England	1878
• Christian Sci.	Mary Baker Eddy	Mass.	1879
• JWs	Charles Russell	Penn.	1879
• Nazarene	Phineas Breese	Texas	1908

There Is One Body

- Men have churches with other origins:

• Church	Founder	Place	Year
• Pentecostal	William Seymour	California	1908

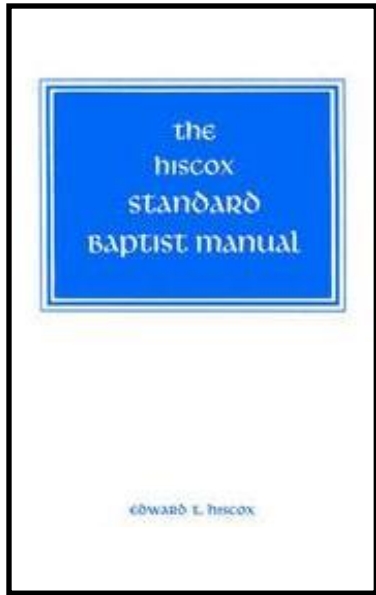
Churches originating after the first century are churches that began too late

Let's set aside creeds and conferences and get back to the Bible

There Is One Body

- **The right church has the right entrance**
 - **Baptism puts one into Christ and the universal church**
 - **Gal. 3:26-27** “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - **Acts 2:38,47** “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ... 47 And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Human creeds speak



Baptist Manual

- **The Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual**
- "It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but "One Lord, one faith, and one baptism," and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act, constituted him a member of the church ... In that sense, "baptism was the door into the church." Now it is different and while the churches are desirous of receiving members, they are wary that they do not receive unworthy persons.

What changed?
Did the NT change?

(Edward T. Hiscox, D.D., The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, Philadelphia: Baptist Publication Society, 1890, p. 22)

There Is One Body

- How do we get into the one body?
 - *Hear (1 Tim. 4:16)*
 - *Believe (Jn. 3:16)*
 - *Repent (Acts 17:30)*
 - *Confess (Acts 8:36-39)*
 - *Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)*

