

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Only one

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**T**he Holy Spirit led Paul to reveal the basis upon which unity among Christians can thrive. Paul writes, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-7).

During apostolic times, the point was clear as to how many churches were authorized by God. There was only one. The body of Christ was the church of Christ over which Jesus is the sole head. Earlier in the letter to the Ephesians Paul wrote, “and He put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23). The body was the church, therefore the one body was the one church.

When we preach this same truth today, people who have lined themselves up with various denominations believe we are too narrow minded, intolerant and even bigoted. But think about it for a moment. When Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18), did He have in mind that

He would be one head over 300 – plus different religious bodies? When the Holy Spirit led Paul to write that there should be no divisions among God’s people and that we all are to speak the same thing, be perfected together in the same mind and judgment (I Corinthians 1:10), was he at the same time saying it is okay for people in the 300 –plus denominations to teach conflicting and contradictory doctrines in the name of Christ?

Yet, we are too narrow minded when we try to turn the hearts of people back to the truth of the New Testament that there is only one body — the church of which Jesus is the head. Remember, this the basis for unity (Eph. 4), not division. We believe and teach that if people will simply follow the New Testament, taking nothing from it or adding anything to it, we will be united in “one body” teaching “one faith” and fulfilling Jesus’ prayer for unity in our day (John 17:20-21).

If we were to turn our backs upon God’s truth of there being “one body” and tolerate all the different denominations existing today, how should we react to the other plain statements in God’s platform for unity?

With the continual immigration of people from the Far East, bringing with them their religions of many gods, should we no longer boldly proclaim that there is only “one God”? Will the sincere person who worships Buddha as his god, be accepted by the “tolerant” “loving” “fair minded” people in the various denominations? If not, why not? The same Bible that says there is “one God”, says there is “one body”. If we overlook the fact of “one body” in order to embrace the many denominations, why can’t we overlook the “one God” in order to embrace the Buddhist?

The Muslim religion is growing in our country today. The sincere Muslim looks to the teaching of Mohammed as authoritative in his life. Mohammed is said to have received a vision from the angel Gabriel (A.D. 609) and began to preach. While Paul said there is only “one Lord” (I Corinthians 8:6), are we to be silent in our claims, and be “tolerant” “loving” and “fair-minded” accepting the sincere Muslim who puts Mohammed’s teachings above Christ’s? As there is “one God” and “one Lord”, there is only “one body”.