

# The Old Hickory

## Bulletin

### Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Jackson, TN 38305

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April 22, 2012

Volume 32, # 17

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## Does One Equal One?

Paul was dealing with personal liberty in an idolatrous world when he wrote to the Corinthians about the many idolatrous gods that were worshipped in the world, contrasting that notion with truth. I Corinthians 8:5-6 – “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.”

Similarly, in discussing the unity of the Spirit, Paul said in Ephesians 4:4-6 – “*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you 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.”

Please read these previous two verses very carefully and choose the correct answer (“for us” i.e., from the Christian’s perspective, not the idol worshipper’s) to the following questions:

1. How many Gods are there? Note: this is the “Father.”  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
2. How many Lords are there? Note: this is “Jesus Christ.”  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
3. How many Spirits are there?  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
4. How many hopes are there?  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
5. How many bodies are there?  
Note: the “body” is identified as “the church” in Col. 1:18, 24.  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
6. How many faiths are there?  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one
7. How many baptisms are there?  
(a) none (b) one (c) more than one

Now, friend, kindly answer this question: Why do religious people agree that the Bible teaches that there is ONE GOD, ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, ONE HOLY SPIRIT, and yet preach and teach, contending that there are MANY FAITHS and MANY CHURCHES, and/or TWO BAPTISMS in effect today?

The inspired Apostle Paul, an ambassador for Jesus Christ, said that there is ONE! None is not ONE, and two is not ONE, and many is not ONE. ONE EQUALS ONE, right?

- GFS

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# ***ARE YOU A FRIEND OF CHRIST?***

No doubt, most of you would answer "yes" to the question: "Are you a friend of Christ?" However, this would not necessarily mean that you are really His friend. It would only mean that you **think** you are His friend. There is a way that you can **know** that you are truly a friend of Jesus Christ.

In talking to His disciples, Jesus said: "**Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**" (John 15:14). True friendship involves mutual understanding and love. Jesus understands our needs and He loves us. We need to understand His word and obey what He says. We must have a love for Jesus and His truth. Friendship with Jesus is not by chance, but it is by choice! We choose to be His friends or we choose not to be His friends. Friendship with Jesus Christ is **conditional** and He has given us the terms of friendship. To be His friends, we must accept His terms of friendship. There is no other way.

To be a friend of Jesus Christ one must do something. But it is not enough just to do something. One must do "**whatsoever**" Jesus commands. He has the right to command because He has "**all power**" both in heaven and in earth. See Matthew 28:18 where He said: "**All power is given unto me both in heaven and in earth.**" He is our King! He is our Ruler! He is our High Priest! He is our Advocate! He is the Head of the church! We must listen to Him, believe what He says and "**do whatsoever**" He commands us!

Remember this fact: Jesus Christ does not become your friend on your terms, but you can become His friend only if you are willing to comply

with the conditions He has given. **Are you a friend of Christ?** Do you **know** what His terms of friendship are? Do you desire to know? Really?

Not all who **claim** to be His friends are really the friends of Jesus Christ. **Claiming** to be a friend of the Lord's is **no proof** that one **is** His friend.

Not all who are **morally upright** are His friends. A true friend of Christ (a true Christian) will see the need and the advantages of living a morally pure life. He will endeavor to live morally pure and he will encourage others to do so. He recognizes the fact that those who engage in the works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. (See Galatians 5:19-21). He recognizes the fact that he must deny himself of ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. (See Titus 2:11-12). He recognizes the need of following peace with all men, "**and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.**" (See Hebrews 12:14). However, one may be morally pure and still be an enemy of God, and thus **not** a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not all who are **religious** are the friends of Jesus Christ. A true friend will in deed practice pure and undefiled religion. James tells us that "**If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**" (James 1:27). Practicing pure religion is absolutely essential to being a true friend of Jesus Christ. Practicing religion is not enough. One must practice pure and undefiled religion. This is the kind that is revealed in the Scriptures. However, there are many religionists whose worship is vain. Although they draw nigh unto

God with their mouth and honor God with their lips, their heart is far from God. They worship God in vain because they teach for doctrines the commandments of men. (See Matthew 15:7-9). The Scribes and Pharisees mentioned in Matthew 23 were very religious, but Jesus said to them: "**Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**" Many people who do not accept Jesus Christ as God's Son are very religious, but they are **not** His friends!

Remember, in talking to His disciples, Jesus said: "**Ye are my friends IF ye do whatsoever I command you.**" (John 15:14). To be a friend of Christ, **it is imperative that you obey what He says!**

- Carrol R. Sutton, *The Instructor*, Nov., 1983

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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*Demas!*" (text: 1 John 2:15-17);  
Sunday evening: "*Deuteronomy: Moses' Farewell Address!*"

**SCHEDULE:** Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be July 29-Aug. 3, with Aaron Andrews.