

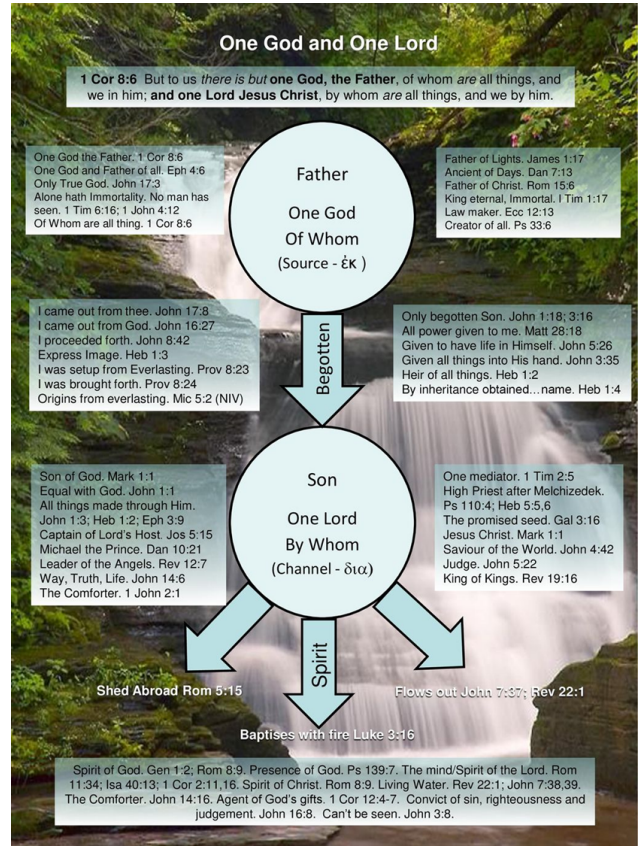
THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

“We Are His Workmanship”

Date: 10-13-24 Lesson: 23
 Pastor David Nehrenz
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Norman, OK

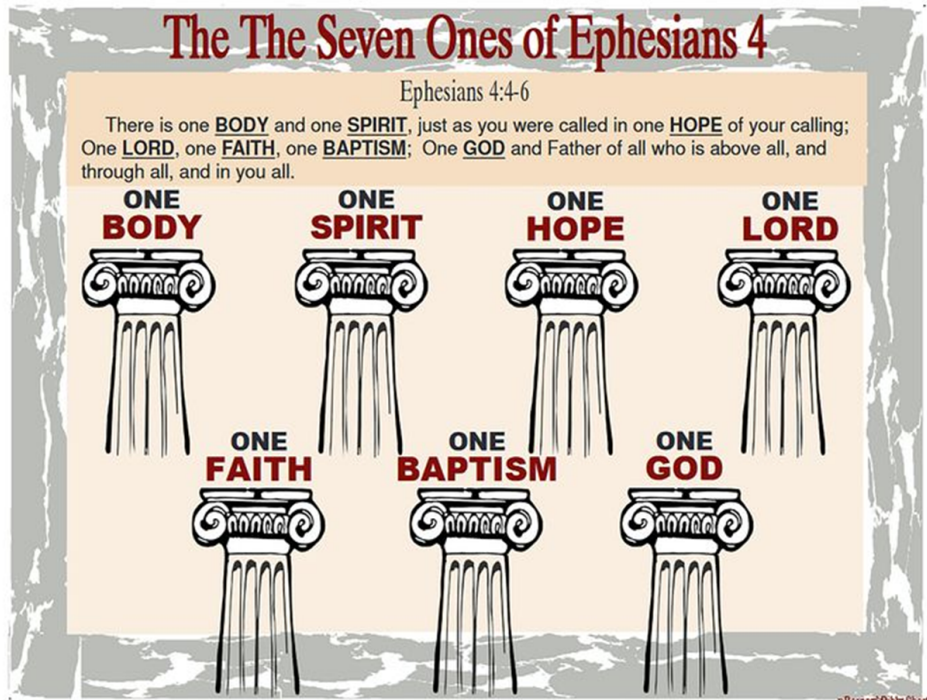
THE TEXT - (Ephesians 4:1-6)

- (4) There is one body and **one Spirit**
 --just as you were called to the one hope
 that belongs to your call—
- (5) **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism,
- (6) **one God and Father of all, who is over
 all and through all and in all.**



(Dt 6:4; Zech 14:9; Mal 2:10;
 Mt 3:15;

Rom 6:3,4; 9:5; 10:9,12; 11:36; 12:5;
 1 Cor 1:13; 8:4-6; 12:3-6,13;
 Gal 3:27,28; Jude 3)



STUDY HELPS

APOLOGY TO AUGSBURG CONFESSION - ARTICLE II – THE APOSTLES CREED

[51] But this is the meaning and substance of this addition: I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, **under one head, even Christ [Ephesians 1: 22]**. This group is called together by **the Holy Spirit** in one faith, one mind, and understanding, with many different gifts, yet agreeing in love, without sects or schisms [**Ephesians 4: 5– 8, 11**].

[52] I am also a part and member of this same group, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses [Romans 8: 17]. I am brought to it and incorporated into it **by the Holy Spirit** through having heard and continuing to hear **God's Word** [Galatians 3: 1– 2], which is the beginning of entering it. In the past, before we had attained to this, we were altogether of the devil, knowing nothing **about God and about Christ** [Romans 3: 10– 12]. [53] So, until the Last Day, **the Holy Spirit** abides with the holy congregation or Christendom [John 14: 17]. Through this congregation He brings us **to Christ** and He teaches and preaches to us **the Word** [John 14: 26]. By the Word He works and promotes sanctification, causing this congregation daily to grow and to become strong in the faith and its fruit, which He produces [Galatians 5].

[54] We further believe that in this Christian Church we have forgiveness of sin, which is wrought through the holy Sacraments and Absolution [Matthew 26: 28; Mark 1: 4; John 20: 23] and through all kinds of comforting promises from the entire Gospel. Therefore, whatever ought to be preached about the Sacraments belongs here. In short, the whole Gospel and all the offices of Christianity belong here, which also must be preached and taught without ceasing. **God's grace is secured through Christ** [John 1: 17], and sanctification is wrought **by the Holy Spirit through God's Word** in the unity of the Christian Church. Yet because of our flesh, which we bear about with us, we are never without sin [Romans 7: 23– 24].

[55] Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through **the Word** and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the **grace of the Holy Spirit** does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but **continuous, uninterrupted** forgiveness of sin. This is because **God forgives us** and because we forgive, bear with, and help one another [Galatians 6: 1– 2].

[56] But outside **of this Christian Church**, where the Gospel is not found, there is no forgiveness, as also there can be no holiness. Therefore, all who seek and wish to earn holiness not through the Gospel and forgiveness of sin, but by their works, have expelled and severed themselves **from this Church** [Galatians 5: 4]. [57] However, while sanctification has begun and is growing daily [2 Thessalonians 1: 3], we expect that our flesh will be destroyed and buried with all its uncleanness [Romans 6: 4– 11]. Then we will come forth gloriously and arise in a new, eternal life of entire and perfect holiness.

[58] For now we are only half pure and holy. So **the Holy Spirit** always has some reason to continue His work in us **through the Word**. He must daily administer forgiveness until we reach the life to come. At that time there will be no more forgiveness, but only perfectly pure and holy people [1 Corinthians 13: 10]. We will be full of godliness and righteousness, removed and free from sin, death, and all evil, in a new, immortal, and glorified body [1 Corinthians 15: 43, 53].

[59] You see, **all this is the Holy Spirit's office and work**. He begins and daily increases holiness upon earth through these two things: the Christian Church and the forgiveness of sin. But in our death He will accomplish it altogether in an instant [1 Corinthians 15: 52] and will forever preserve us therein by the last two parts [of the Creed].

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LIFE APPLICATION

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

How do we affirm this every week in the confession of the Creeds?
(Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian)