



June 24, 2007

## One

One, think about it, what comes to your mind when you hear one? Maybe you think of the athlete who holds up his finger and says, "we're number one!" maybe you think of a slogan such as, "The one and only, Diet Coke", which was in response to Pepsi's debut of, "Pepsi One." Maybe a love song comes to mind such as, "You're Still the One." Or maybe your mind goes in a little bit of a different direction; maybe it's still a song but this time it's "One is the Loneliest Number in the World. Maybe it's Tiny Tim in Magoo's Christmas Carol lamenting how he is the only one who is crippled, singing, "I'm All Alone in the World." I'm inclined to think that is how the man in our gospel felt this morning. Most of us have never seen a demon possession but it has to be terrible. Consider how the Bible describes him.

In Luke 8:27 we see that he didn't wear clothes, he did not live in a house, rather he lived in tombs. Now think about that, tombs are basically caves with shelves cut into the walls of the cave. When a person died they were placed on a shelf. A year or so later the relatives returned took the bones after the body had decayed, and put them in to a stone box called an ossuary. This demon-possessed man was sleeping on one of those shelves in a tomb with decaying bodies. Remember arrived at the tomb of Lazarus. After four days he said, "roll the stone away." The response, "you don't want to do that it will stink." This is where the demon possessed man slept, he slept in those tombs. We see that people evidently tried to help him. They had chained him hand and foot but he broke the chains and, "had been driven by the demon into solitary places." Solitary places you know when we look at this it sets the stage for us to nature the witness and character of Satan and the demonic world as well as the nature and character of God and His people.

What does Satan do? What do the demons do? They drive man into solitary places. They isolate him he is one he is alone. This is Satan's nature his goal his desire isolate people from God isolate people from God's family, the church, isolate people and make them feel alone, helpless, defeated, distraught, depressed and maybe even angry. Enter Jesus. His nature, his goal, his desire restoration. Restore the relationship with God, restore the individual to God's family, restore the person and give him faith, hope and love. To do this Jesus had to overcome one obstacle, remove the demon. Notice, Jesus who is almighty did not just give the man a right mind, did not just put clothes on him, did not whip up a house for him to stay in, he addressed the real need he removed the demon. There is a message there for us God is not willing to share you or me with Satan. Remember his name, is El Kanna, the jealous God, He does not restore if we want to hold to Satan and anything that he uses to keep us from God. The house must be cleaned.

You see God is very big on unity but as unity is not one of isolation and despair consider creation, when we heard about this in the Truth Project, we saw that God created everything and it was good. At the end of day 1 we see it was good, day 2 it was good, day 3 it was good, good, good, good. Then he makes man and he says, "It is not good for man to be alone." So He makes Eve and immediately says, "the two shall become one." You see Satan separates, isolates and makes a person alone makes them one. God brings together and makes one. Impossible? Yes, but then again that's His nature for He, God, is triune three in one. This is what Paul wrote to the people of Galatia about. In Galatians 3:26-28 we see, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." There is no separation in status, slave or free, no separation by race Jew or Greek, no separation by sex, male or female we are all one in Christ.

As I look out at our church I see many different people yet I see one body of believers united through and in Christ. This is what Christ prayed for in his high priestly prayer in John 17 where he says, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who believe in me through their message that all of them may be one Father just as you are in me and I am in you." You see, God is three in one and He looks to us to be one also; many but one. Now how do we do this?

How do we show or truly live unity live as one? The Bible is full of many places that tell about this. James 5:16 tells us to, “confess our sins to one another to pray for one another.” Galatians 5:13 tells us to, “serve one another.” Ephesians 5:21 gives us a big one, “submit one another.” And you know when we hear that word submit the hair on the back of our necks stand up because to us submission is something that is bad but that is wrong. Christ submitted to his Fathers’ will in the Garden of Gethsemane said, “Father not my will but your will be done.” Its not insisting on your own way it’s submitting to another person’s way for the good of everyone. We are to submit to one another, give up our own way and seek the way of Christ. Colossians 3:16, “We are to teach one another”, Bible study is important. Ephesians 4:32 we are to, “be kind to one another, compassionate to one another, forgiving of one another.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we are to “encourage one another and build one another up.” Romans 12:10 we are to, “honor one another above ourselves. We are to be devoted to one another. We are to live in harmony with one another.” Romans 15:7 we are to, “accept one another.” And John 13:34 we are to, “love one another as Christ has loved us.”

This is how we show unity we live for one another as we live for one another we become in body. This is why we see in Romans, Ephesians and 1 Corinthians that the church is called the body of Christ. We are told each one is a member of it and each one works for the good of the one body. That is how are body works if you look at your own body it is truly a fantastic organism. The brain controls it but the brain is absolutely helpless without a heart to pump the blood to it yet the heart is totally helpless without the lungs to get oxygen into the blood. Now the lungs are totally helpless unless they have the energy to do this and that energy comes from the intestines, which break down the food, which came through the stomach, which came through the esophagus, which was pushed by the tongue which was ground up by the teeth which entered through the mouth. You see when it comes down to it our whole body is dependent upon all the parts even the big organs are helpless without a blood cell. You take away those tiny little blood cells you’re dead. The body is truly unified and working together unless, a part decides to go its own way this is called cancer. When one of your own cells decides to separate itself from serving the body and it begins to serve itself it goes alone and the result is one of two things, it is either removed or it kills the

body. Sobering, isn't it? May we be at a spiritual level, cancer free. May we turn from Satan his traps, his tricks his cunning plan to try to separate us from God and may we be united in Christ loving each other, serving each other and living as we were meant to be living as one.

In our Savior's name, Amen.