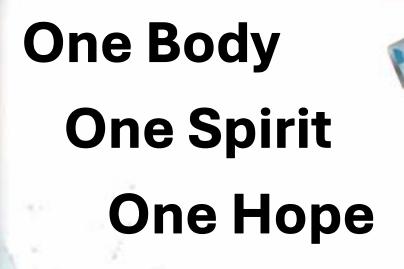


There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6



One Lord
One Faith
One Faith

But *BAPTISM* as a uniting factor in the church?

The Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission

Jesus is the One Lord

He is the one that made the "rules"

He gave the instructions;

Go, Baptize, Teach

The idea of baptism was not an afterthought it was his centerpiece



Also remember that at the very first sermon when the people said what next, Peter's response (Acts 2:38)

And now Paul the chief theologian in the early church brings it here as one of the unifying factors

One Baptism

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

Mark 10:38



"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Luke 22:42



Jesus was refencing the commitment it was going to take to complete the mission

The baptism Jesus was talking about was not going to get him wet, it was going to get him crucified

While neither the cup nor the baptism here represents a physical thing his question points to the mindset of the follower



And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ



1 Peter 3:21

Baptized into His Death

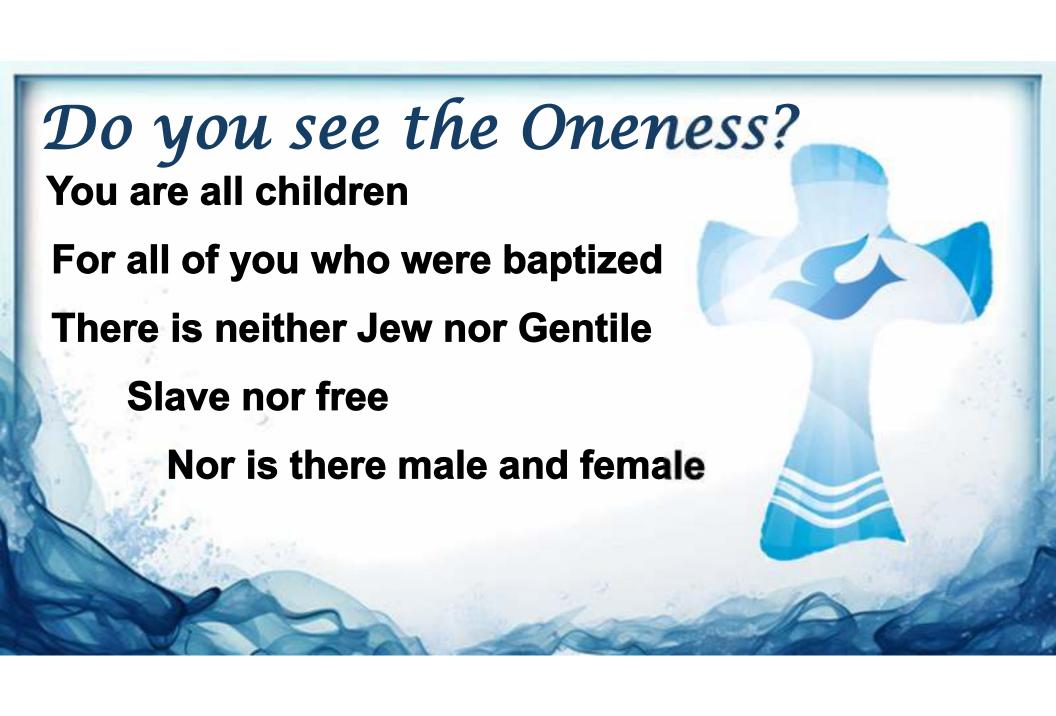
Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

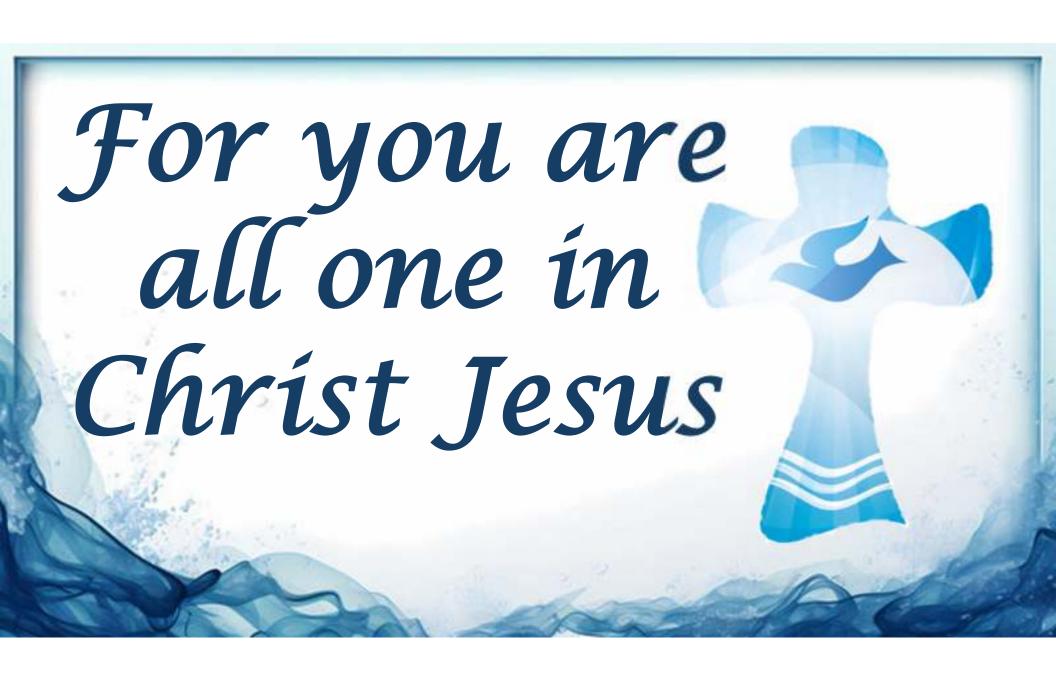
Romans 6:3-4



So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-27





A Gospel Connection

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1 Corinthians 1:17

The goal it not to get you into the baptistry but to get you into a relationship with Jesus

The Jesus Relationship

And in that relationship have you identify publicly and openly with Jesus in a way he demonstrated to us (*Matthew 3:13-17*)





The Jesus Relationship

I don't think any human will ever fully appreciate what this moment means in heaven.

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:7



Ready to Follow? BALLING BAL

BURIED WITH HIM IN DEATH RAISED TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE