

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—surgery recovery
- ◆ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Phil Benson—kidney dialysis
- ◆ Bonnie Crites—knee pain, surgery
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ◆ Melba Fuqua—health problems
- ◆ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
- ◆ Kiptyn Gillis—non-cancerous tumor
- ◆ Janice Godwin—surgery recovery
- ◆ Jamie Goodman—colon cancer
- ◆ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ◆ Andrew Hickman—health problems
- ◆ Vandan Kumar—tinnitus
- ◆ John Moss—surgery recovery

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.
- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, enemies.
- ◆ Pray for our evangelistic efforts and for more opportunities.

Events

If the Lord wills...

No meals after worship the first Sundays in Dec. / Jan.

Dec. 7

Men's Meeting

Dec. 24

4th Wednesday Singing

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Php. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements: Glenn Howze

Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze

Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Ethan Howze, Mark Howze

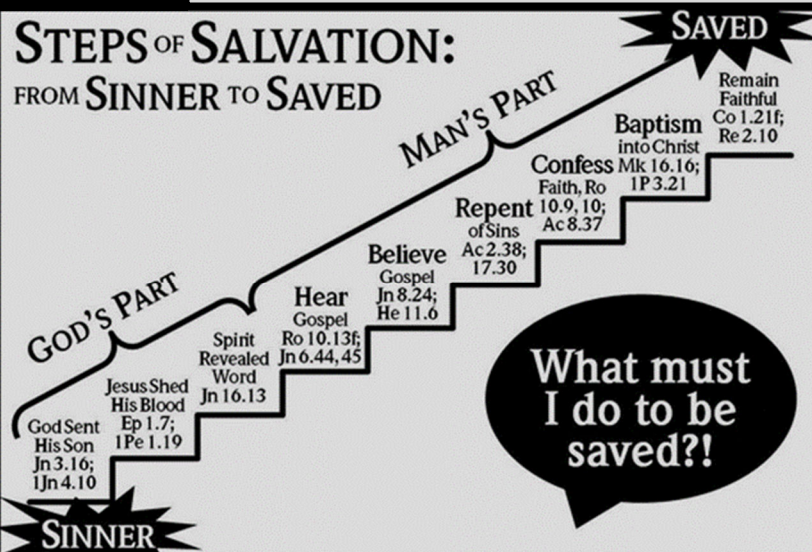
Lord's Supper PM

Head: Glenn Howze
Helper: Rick Hemphill

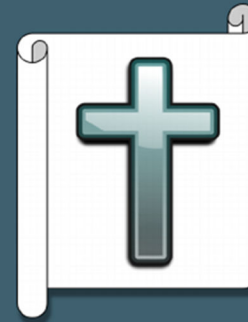
Bible Reading: Trey Miles

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
(Romans 6:17).



"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

December 7, 2025

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class

11AM Worship

6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

Building: 5761 Hwy. 4

Mail: P.O. Box 285

Baker, FL 32531 USA

850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

WAAZ1047.com livestream

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When the Truth About God the Father Sounds Strange

Jason Patrick Hilburn

How is it that one of the plain truths of Ephesians 4:4-6 (often called "the seven ones of unity") now sounds strange to many Christians? *"One body... one Spirit... one hope... one Lord... one faith... one baptism... one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all"* (Eph. 4:4-6).

These seven simple, Spirit-given truths are meant to produce unity, yet one of them — the truth about God the Father — has been largely overlooked, softened, or even denied by many.

Some have worked so hard to make the One Lord and the One Spirit equal with the Father in every possible way that they have, perhaps unintentionally, denied the Father's supremacy over all, including His authority over the Son and the Spirit (Jn. 3:17; 5:30; 7:16; 13:16; 14:26, 28; 16:13; 1 Cor. 11:3, etc.). In their zeal to defend the Deity of Christ against false teachers who deny such, many have inadvertently dishonored the Father by denying the very headship affirmed by the Father, the Son, and the Spirit (Jn. 14:28; 16:13; 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:6; Heb. 1:8-9).

Furthermore, to defend a traditional Trinitarian viewpoint, many have tried to make the One Lord and One Spirit components of the *"one God...above all"* even though Paul listed them separately and only identified the Father as the *"one God"* who is truly above all other beings. The Bible does not combine all three into one God who is above all, but repeatedly gives that distinction to the Father. This is because

“God” in that sense refers to supreme authority, not merely divine nature. Jesus and the Spirit are sometimes called “God” but never “*the one God...above all*” in the ultimately authoritative sense of the Father.

Jesus said He and the Father are “one” in the same way His followers are to be one—united in nature, purpose, and will, not merged into a single Person (Jn. 10:30; 17:11, 22). This unity does not erase the clear distinctions in authority or identity repeatedly affirmed in the Scriptures. The Father is still “above all” in authority (Jn. 14:28; 20:17; 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:6). Likewise, when a husband and wife become “one” in marriage, they remain two persons, and the husband still possesses a higher level of authority (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24). Distinct persons being united is the kind of “oneness” under consideration.

It should also be noted that the word “God/god” is used in several different ways in Scripture. In the New Testament, it overwhelmingly (well over 200 times) refers specifically to the Father (Jn. 17:3), sometimes to divine nature (Jn. 1:1; Acts 5:3-4); sometimes to Christ’s exalted role underneath the Father (Heb. 1:8-9); sometimes to human judges (Jn. 10:34; cf. Psa. 82:6); and even to false gods or Satan as “*the god of this world*” (1 Cor. 8:5-6; 2 Cor. 4:4). If we treat the word “God” in a sentence as if it means “all three Persons combined” or “one Person in three modes,” we will reach conclusions the Bible does not teach, and this can even distort the instructions God has given for worship (Jn. 4:23-24; 16:23; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 5:19-20; Php. 1:3-4; 4:6-7; Col. 3:16-17, etc.). Deuteronomy 6:4 is not referring to “all three Persons,” but to God the Father as the one unique God they were to worship, distinguishing Him from idols.

Jesus and the Spirit possess the divine, eternal nature and can thus rightfully be called “God,” but they are not equal in authority with the Father. This is why Jesus Himself called the Father “*the only true God*,” because the Father is the only Being with no one above Him in authority (Jn. 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; cf. Mal. 2:10; Jn. 5:26-27; 14:28; 20:17; 1 Cor. 8:6; 11:3; 15:27-28; Eph. 1:3, 17; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:3).

It should also be stated that the Father’s supreme authority does not nullify the divine nature of the Son or the Spirit. Submission does not remove their divine nature, just as a wife does not lose her humanity or womanhood by submitting to her husband (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24; cf. Jn. 1:1; 8:58; Heb. 1:8-9; 9:14; Acts 5:3-4).

The supreme authority of God the Father is an essential part of “*keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3-6). We cannot ignore it or rewrite it to fit a doctrinal tradition that contradicts even one passage, let alone the multitude emphasizing the Father’s authority. God the Father is “*the one God... above all*,” and honoring Him as such is a critical part of keeping the unity and peace the Spirit commands.

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>

THE HEADSHIP OF GOD THE FATHER

GOD THE FATHER

- “The only true God,” per Jesus (Jn. 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9-10)
- The “one God...above all” (Eph. 4:6; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Mal. 2:10)
- “The God of Jesus” (Jn. 20:17; Eph. 1:3, 17; Heb. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:3)
- “The Head of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:3)
- The Ultimate Source of all blessings (Jam. 1:17; Eph. 5:20)

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

- Divine, Eternal (Jn. 1:1; 8:58)
- Has always carried out God’s will (Eph. 3:9; Heb. 1:2; Acts 17:31)
- The Sent Son (Jn. 3:17; 13:16; 14:28)
- Died to reconcile men to the Father (Rom. 5:10; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- Received all authority from the Father (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 5:26-27, 30)
- Still “prays” to the Father (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; cf. Jn. 14:16)
- Will continue to be subject to the Father (1 Cor. 15:27-28)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Divine, Eternal (Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 9:14)
- The Spirit “of God” (Matt. 10:20; 1 Cor. 2:11; Rom. 8:11)
- Sent by the Father (Jn. 14:26)
- Sent by Christ by the Father’s authority (Jn. 16:7, 13; Acts 2:33)
- Was not sent to glorify Himself (Jn. 16:13-14)
- Gave miraculous gifts per God’s will (Heb. 2:4; 2 Cor. 1:21-22)
- Revealed words from the Father (1 Cor. 2:10; cf. Jn. 17:8; 14:26)

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