

# The Vincennes Voice

*"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)*

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## BIBLE HEARTS

*Larry R. Ping II*

The word "heart," or a form of it appears around 900 times in God's Word. The Bible, in using this term, does not make reference to the physical blood-pump within our bodies. Rather, it notes the "emotional and intellectual" part of man, his mind. Have you considered the following kinds of hearts of which the Bible speaks? Do so now!

### 1) Hard Heart.

Pharaoh had this kind of heart (Exo. 4:21; Exo. 7:14; Exo. 8:15). This sort of heart is stubborn, offering no opportunity for change. God describes this as a "heart firm as a stone" (Job. 41:24). Ezekiel calls it a "stony heart" (Eze. 11:19).

2) Glad Heart. The Psalmist shared information about this kind of heart (Psa. 4:7). This carries with it the idea of contentedness, of happiness with current states of affair (Php. 4:11), much like Boaz in Ruth 3:7. Solomon wrote "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Prov. 17:22).

3) Purposed Heart. It was said of Daniel he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank" (Dan. 1:8). This type of heart is a "planning ahead" one, not waiting until the last second to make important decisions. Early disciples were urged to "cleave unto the Lord" with "purpose of heart" (Acts 11:23). Every man is to give "as he purposeth in his heart" (II Cor. 9:7).

### 4) Far-Away Heart.

Jesus, of the scribes and Pharisees, said "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matt. 15:8; Mk. 7:6). This variety of heart is going through the motions of worship, mechanically doing as God commands, without having the right mind-set and attitude. This is why the Lord commanded "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). Let not your heart drift in worship.

5) Kept Heart. The wise man recorded "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). This brand of heart is a "protected" heart, one which is closely guarded. What is permitted into the mind, will eventually exit in actions. The Lord affirms this by teaching "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matt. 15:18-19).

### 6) Willing Heart.

When it came time to gather supplies to erect the tabernacle, Moses said "Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it" (Exo. 35:5). In this case, the people excelled, insomuch they had to be "restrained from bringing" (Exo. 36:6). May we have a heart which is longing to do and excited about the Lord's work.

# THERE IS ONE

*John Edwards (Terre Haute, IN)*

In a world of religious pluralism, we need to be reminded of the fact that there is one. To appreciate oneness, we bid you read Ephesians 4:4-6.

**ONE BODY.** Whatever the body is, there is just one. The body is “the church” (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 24). Thus, there is one church. The world boasts of many bodies and “join the church of your choice” is the order of the day, but there is one body in which one is reconciled (Eph. 2:16) and of which Christ is head and saviour (Eph. 5:23).

**ONE SPIRIT.** The “one Spirit” is “the Spirit of truth” (Jn. 16:13), the agency of divine revelation (Eph. 3:3-6). Therefore, there is one body of revealed truth. If we believe, teach and practice things inconsistent with, or contrary to, the revelation of the “one Spirit”, then what we believe, teach and practice is not truth, but error!

**ONE HOPE.** In Christ, we have hope of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:19; Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:27; Titus 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:11). We are “begotten...unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3). It is “through the gospel” that we are begotten in Christ (1 Cor. 4:15), or made “partakers of his promise in Christ” (Eph. 3:6). If one is begotten “through” something else,

then he is begotten “unto” something else! Any “hope” other than the “one hope” of the gospel is no hope at all.

**ONE LORD.** Though there be “lords many”, there is but “one Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 8:5-6), the possessor of “all power...in heaven and in earth” (Mt. 28:18). All religious teaching and practice is to be done in His name, or by His authority (Col. 3:17). This means there is one standard of authority, and to teach or practice that which is unauthorized by the Lord Jesus Christ is to teach and preach that which is without divine authority!

**ONE FAITH.** In Galatians 1:23, Paul was said to have preached the faith. What did Paul preach, when he preached the faith? Galatians 2:2 says he preached the gospel. Thus, the faith is the gospel and there is but one gospel. Any “gospel” other than the one true gospel is a perversion (Gal. 1:6-9), by which one cannot be saved (1 Cor. 15:1-2), called (2 Th. 2:14; Col. 3:15) or begotten (1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:3).

**ONE BAPTISM.** Paul wrote, “for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body” (1 Cor. 12:13). How ever many Spirits and bodies there are is how many baptisms there are. The one baptism is based on gospel teaching (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15), faith

(Mk. 16:16), repentance (Acts 2:38) and confession of faith (Acts 8:37). It is an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-4), “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and puts one “into Christ” (Gal. 3:27). Any baptism other than the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5 has no validity today.

**ONE GOD.** Though there be many gods, “there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things” (1 Cor. 8:5). There has always been, and will always be, just one true God (1 Ki. 18; Is. 40-48). Any other god is “a god that cannot save” (Is. 45:20).

Our plea is no body but the one body, no spirit but the one Spirit, no hope but the one hope, no lord but the one Lord, no faith but the one faith, no baptism but the one baptism and no god but the one God. The plea for the seven ones of Ephesians 4:4-6 is the plea for unity. “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). This will bring about unity in worship (one God), unity in authority (one Lord), unity in message (one faith), unity in practice (one baptism), unity in organization (one body) and unity in life, desire and expectation (one Spirit and one hope). There is no other basis of unity, Scriptural unity.

## FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

### MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am  
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm