

# Impact of One: Body

In our Scripture Paul lists seven "ones".

One body, 1 Spirit, 1 hope, 1 Lord, 1 faith, 1 baptism, 1 God and Father.  
Talk about the impact of one.

Where do you start with a passage like this?

Which one deserves the greater attention?

Well we can do a little merging of these 7 "ones".

Maybe we could make it like lines on a hockey team.

Or maybe we could make them like the positions hockey players fill.

We see in this list of "ones", three that belong together.

You can probably pick them out yourself.

## **I Paul talks about one God.**

There is one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father.

We see here the trinity of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**We see in this series of "ones" the unity of God.**

Three perfectly blended in one.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit in perfect unity.

No division, no jostling for position or preeminence.

All in perfect relationship and fellowship.

**All with one goal - redemption - your redemption.**

All with one purpose, to breathe new life into life - our lives.

Each unique and yet never separate or divided.

One Spirit, one Lord, one Father - One.

One who is in all and through all and over all.

One who can fill any void our life might have.

**"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)**

This truth should have a huge impact on us.

**Our world is full of substitutes for the God of the Bible.**

There is something about this world that seeks for any god but God.

**The Living God always seems to be the last resort.**

People will try anything else first.

There is only one living God.

**None of this world's gods are living.**

They have no pulse.

Their eyes don't blink.

They have no awareness of those who worship them.

But the God Paul describes is a living God.

He does have a pulse.

Jesus living on this earth was real.

**The Father, Son and Spirit were all part of the cross.**

On the Cross Jesus died.

He shed His blood.

You can't die unless you are alive.

But Jesus' death was no ordinary death.

He didn't die of natural causes.

He didn't just grow old and weak and one day die.

**His death was a sacrifice.**

But it was not a sacrifice of weakness.

It wasn't that He couldn't stand up to His accusers.  
It wasn't that He was overpowered by a greater force.  
He willingly laid down His life.  
He willingly let the nails fasten Him to the cross.  
He willingly died because on the cross He took your place.  
On the cross He took my place.  
Only the power of an all-powerful God could do that.  
Jesus rightly said no one sacrifices for an enemy.  
I was Jesus' enemy before He died on the cross.  
The sin of my life had declared war against Him.  
I wanted to be Lord of my kingdom.  
I wanted the kingdom of Jesus to be toppled.  
Jesus could have wiped me out.  
But He didn't.  
He loved me and gave Himself for me.  
He took the death and punishment that I deserved.  
He gave His life that I might have true life.  
He gave His life that I might live abundantly.  
How have you responded to this One true living God?

## **II Paul talks about one response.**

In our passage there are four more "ones".

Of the four remaining "ones", three belong together.

Paul speaks of one Hope, one Faith, and one Baptism.

This is one response to the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We place our hope and our faith in God which leads to baptism.**

What is hope without faith and a life to follow?

Hope, on its own, will only disappoint.

Our world hopes for all kinds of things.

I'm hoping for warm weather.

I'm hoping Toronto wins the Stanley Cup this year.

I'm hoping to make ends meet financially.

You have hopes too.

Maybe you are hoping for security or stability in your life.

Maybe you have hopes for your children or career.

There are a lot of disappointed hopes.

**But no matter how dark life gets, hope in Jesus never disappoints.**

The disciples were disappointed when Jesus died on the cross.

Two of those disciples were travelling to the town of Emmaus.

Their hopes had been dashed.

They said to a Traveller that joined them that day;

**"Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened." (Luke 24:19-21)**

Their hope in Jesus had been decimated.

**Hope stranded by itself will always disappoint.**

Paul does not leave hope dangling.

He lashes it to faith.

**When hope is combined with faith, amazing things happen.**

**"And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)**

**"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into**

this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:1-5)

One hope, one faith, one baptism.

Don't let your hope and faith be separated.

Place them together and amazing things happen.

Confidence in the resurrection emerges from hope and faith.

"The Lord is risen indeed" filled their burning hearts.

They couldn't wait to break the news to the disciples in Jerusalem.

They saw the Traveller again and this time there was no doubt.

They knew they were in the presence of the resurrected Lord.

And they stayed in Jerusalem until they were baptized.

Jesus instructed stay until you are clothed with power from on high.

You will be baptized in the power of the Spirit.

One Hope, one Faith, one Baptism in the name of One Father, One Son and One Spirit.

This leaves one more "one"

III Paul talks about one body.

Everything God has done is for this one body.

The one faith, hope, and baptism, results in one body.

The one body is the church.

That is hard for us to comprehend today.

There are so many churches and denominations.

There are many churches today that try to make a claim to fame.

Many churches today claim to have the best chunk of this one God.

We know nothing about the one body Paul refers to.

When Paul wrote there was no Sea-side, Mountain-top, Valley-view, or Emmaus Road church.

There were pockets of believers, but one church.

There was one body that drew together all people, nations, and status.

They forgot the hopes of the past that led to feuds.

They sat together as one with one hope and faith in Christ.

Paul is calling the church together in the unity of spirit.

Move past the physical distinctions and see the spiritual unity.

Paul begins with the one body.

And he ends with the one God and Father of us all.

He is above all and through all and in all.

No one is part of the body unless they are joined first to God by hope and faith.

If we are dependent on any other connection we are outside the body.

If we are dependent on our denomination we are outside the body.

If we are dependent on our abilities or works, we are outside the body.

If we are dependent on our name or reputation we are outside the body.

Even within one congregation there are those outside the body.

Why are you here this morning?

Did you come only because it was expected?

Are you here because someone made you come?

Are you here only because you like the music?

Are you here only because this is where your friends are?

Are you here only because you feel better about yourself afterwards?

Then you are not part of the body of Christ.

There is only one body, made of the hopeful, faithful followers of God.

Paul describes life in the one body.

Notice the place that hope and faith have in the one body.

**"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:10-18)**

Paul is begging us to be part of the one body.

**"I ... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**

That is when this body of Christ will make an impact.

There is no impact through disjointed effort.

There is no impact through disunity.

There is no impact through dissention.

**But when we are one body the impact is astounding.**

**People are amazed when they see Christians in genuine love.**

How are you contributing to the impact of the body on our world?

Do others want anything to do with the church because of you?

Let's pause for a moment.

In this silent moment, ask Jesus where you are right now.

**Are you in the one body by your hope and faith in Him?**

Or, are you isolated from Him and living without hope and in futility?

Jesus wants to make a huge impact through you on this world.

But that impact can only be fully realized when there is one body.

**"The whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)**

Benediction

**"Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." (Ephesians 5:18b-20)**