

ONE GOD, ONE FAITH

By

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“When the son of man comes will he find the faith on the earth?” Jesus (Luke 18:8)

It is reported that when Prince Charles becomes king of England he intends to change the oath he takes from “Defender of the faith” to “Defender of faith.” Those in favor of this change say that it befits England's multicultural society and that Muslims and Buddhists and anyone else all worship the same God as Christians.

This concept now dominates Western society, and is the mindset revealed in the popular phrase; “unity in diversity.”

Advocates of diversity and pluralism do not care if you call yourself a Christian, go to church, and pray in the name of Jesus. All of this is acceptable to “diversity” as long as you also recognize the validity of all other religions. What they will not tolerate is for you to confess that Jesus is Lord” and that, as he claimed, he is the only means of salvation.

The Roman Emperors never objected to the citizens confessing their faith in Christ or believing that he worked miracles or even that he was raised from the dead, as long as they also confessed that Caesar was god, and pledged their allegiance to him. This is where the Christians were in trouble. They believed in only one God and that He had made Jesus Lord over all. When Christians rejected the popular theme of diversity, they became a threat to all the pagan religions throughout the empire; therefore they were seen as common enemies of the people and of the government, and were cruelly persecuted.

Modern advocates of diversity have the same attitude. While loudly screaming for 'tolerance” they are the first to condemn all who do not hold to their pluralistic views. They demand that everyone endorse and support whatever opinion and lifestyle they espouse. The media, while praising diversity, is quick to ridicule everyone that fails to condone or embrace the pluralistic movement.

What the enemies of Christ have succeeded in doing is to create a climate of hate for everyone who takes a stand for the God of the Bible and for His son Jesus, the only mediator between God and man. They have made it impossible for a Christian to give voice to his faith without being branded and condemned as a bigot.

Proponents of pluralism and diversity treat the Christian faith as though it had no shape or form and no absolute distinction. They do not recognize the fact that the very basis of the Christian faith is historic fact that cannot be altered, refined or redefined to blend in with man-made religions.

If Jesus was born of a virgin, then there is a supernatural origin of the whole Christian system. If Jesus arose from the dead then his claim to all authority in heaven and earth cannot be challenged. This means that the Christian faith cannot be synchronized with or placed on the same level with other religions.

There is, indeed, a uniting principle among all the world religions, outside of Christianity, and that is in their desire and purpose to eliminate the Christian faith. Three of the main religions involved in the diversity movement are Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism, and they are openly hostile to the Christian faith. The Talmud, which is the principle textbook used in Jewish synagogues, labels Jesus as a bastard and Mary as a harlot. In countries that are pre dominantly Muslim the Christian faith is outlawed and in many cases it is a crime punishable by death for a Muslim to become a Christian. In the East where Hinduism is the dominant religion there have been numerous cases where people have been killed for no other reason than the fact that they were Christians.

Many may think that the movement for unity in diversity is the mistaken zeal of sentimental people who simply want to see everyone loving one another. Wrong. At the root of this movement are the long-range plans of a group of organizations that are well funded by tax-exempt foundations in the U. S., and are highly organized, and connected closely to the powerful United Nations. In a recent speech UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that the UN need not abide by the separation of Church and State found in the United States. He said, "I would ask you to think differently... The United Nations is a tapestry, not only of suits and saris, but of clerics' collars, nuns' habits, and lamas' robes – of miters, skullcaps and yarmulkes." By this he warns that UN jurisdiction is worldwide, including all churches and religions everywhere.

The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in 1893, and since then there have been a number of international meetings aimed at creating a universal religion. The Chicago Parliament of the World's Religions was held in 1993, after which local meetings were held across the nation, mostly on college campuses, where students were encouraged to think that all religions are equally valid. I attended one such conference at Texas Tech where there were speakers for Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and the B'hai faith. A Protestant preacher spoke, but he failed to represent the Christian faith. The resurrection from the dead, and the final judgment and destruction of sinners are two basic Christian teachings that are denied by most world religions.

A study of the Global New Age Religion shows that secret societies have played a large part in the movement. For example, an article published in 1950 by The Supreme Council 33 degree, A&A Scottish Rite of Freemasonry titled THE NEW AGE, GOD'S PLAN IN AMERICA by William Smith, "God's plan is dedication to the unification of all races, religions and creeds. This plan, dedicated to the new order of things, is to make all things new – a new nation, a new race, a new civilization and a new religion, that has already been recognized and called the religion of "The Great Light."

This light is quite different from the Light we observe in Jesus. He addressed God his Father as "the only true God," and himself as the only means to God. He said that all who seek to approach God through any other means are thieves and robbers. (John. 17:3; 10:1)

God condemned Israel and Judah for compromising with paganism. Jeremiah repeatedly reminded them of their practice of participating in pagan religions, such as burning incense to their gods, the worship of Baal, sacrificing the children to Moloch, and allowing witchcraft and sorcery (drug use) to flourish in the land.

Many today who profess faith in Christ readily joins hands with the leaders of various religions in the name of ecumenicity and unity in diversity. Does not the same condemnation still apply? God is not just one among many options. He is the One to whom we must give an account. All pagan religions are offensive to Him and stand under judgment.

The diversity movement is encouraged by a false concept of love; that love compels us to show respect for all faiths. But it was in love that God forbade idolatry, and it was in love that Jesus denounced the false religion (the traditions) of the Pharisees. One doesn't demonstrate love when he condones and encourages a person to follow a religion that will lead him to destruction. True *agape* love will cause one to seek to show a person the truth about God and His purpose. Instead of encouraging people in pagan idolatry we should be calling them to repent, "inasmuch as (God) has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

The new world religion is meant to accommodate the beliefs and superstitions of all cultures. However, their writings state that they may have to eliminate those who will not "cooperate," which will include Christians who hold firmly to the faith that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God the Father. Christians have faced such hostility from the beginning, and many are being put to the test in some lands even today.

In the body of Christ there is great freedom and diversity, but only one faith, one Lord and one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all and in all. (Eph.4:5-6) It is God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in mercy forgives our sins. This God, whose name is Yahweh, created us, and "gives to all life, and breath and all things." It is He that makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. It is He who "so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish but have everlasting life." That son is Jesus, and neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

For all who put their trust in God and become followers of Jesus, there are wonderful blessings now and a glorious future.

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all." (1 Tim. 2:5-6)

To Him be honor and praise and glory forever. Amen

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