

A Biblical View Of Woman In The Church

1 Corinthians 1:10 - I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB) - "Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust, like the heathen, who do not know God.

Gen. 3:16 - Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

The word for desire in Hebrew is "Teshuqah".

Teshuqah speaks of a persistent, even anxious, turning toward the husband for fulfillment that only God ultimately supplies.

God's desire was always for men and women to work together, not try to rule over each other!

I. THE PROBLEM OF FEMALE SELF CENTEREDNESS (RADICAL FEMINISM)

I define "radical feminism" as "the secular glorification of women."

It is the attitude which says that women are to take control of their own destinies—regardless of what anyone else says or does.

- * *Denial of the Differences between men and women.*
- * *Demeaning of Motherhood, Homemaking, Childrearing.*
- * *An attempt at Renaming God. (Father is offensive)*
- * *Glorification of Immorality in the Name of Liberation*

What has the women's liberation movement brought to America?

In the name of sexual freedom women now sleep where they want, when they want with whomever they choose ...

And if a pregnancy results, "freedom" means the right to dispose of the unborn baby.

How does homosexuality fit in?

1. It's a sure and certain product of a depraved and "liberated" culture—as Romans 1 clearly shows!

Rom. 1:16-32

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

17. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

18. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

19. since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

20. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

21. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

23. and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

25. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

26. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

27. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

29. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

30. slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

31. they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

2. When the God-created differences between men and women are downplayed— when maleness and femaleness become blurry and unclear— it is only a short step to the ultimate blurring of sexual distinctions— homosexuality!

II. THE PROBLEM OF MALE SELF CENTEREDNESS (CHAUVINISM)

I define "male chauvinism" as "intentional disrespect for women."

It is any attitude which devalues women or treats them as less than a person made in the image of God!

Radical feminism is the natural result of men seeing women as something to be used instead of someone to be loved!

Radical feminism is the natural result of men taking selfish advantage of a women's God given bent toward submission to a man in exchange of emotional fulfillment!

2 Tim. 3:6 - They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women...

Radical feminism is the natural result of men selfishly having their way with women and leaving her with the full weight of the responsibility of that choice!

Four ways in which male chauvinism rears its ugly head:

1. *Sexual Harassment*
2. *Demeaning Comments*
3. *Physical/Emotional/Sexual Abuse*

Roughly 1 in 3 women WORLDWIDE, about 30%, have experienced sexual or physical violence in their lifetime.

The surveys suggest that about 25% of the women in AMERICA have been sexually or physically abused.

4. Marital Unfaithfulness (Physically or through pornography)

By committing adultery, physically or in his heart, a man shows disrespect for his marriage vows and for the wife he married.

At the same time he shows disrespect for the "other woman" too because she is being treated as a convenient vehicle for his lack of self control!

2 Sam. 13:15 - Then Amnon HATED her with INTENSE HATRED. In fact, he HATED her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

According to God's Word...

Men and women stand on an equal basis before God...

Equal in dignity, value and worth.

Those differences must be recognized, respected and even celebrated in every area of life—especially in the home and in the church.

Both men and women will find their highest fulfillment in life when those God-created differences are respected and even celebrated!

Do women have a place of ministry within the church?

Can they hold a place in church leadership?

Are women only to teach other women and children or are they allowed to teach men also?

What does the Bible say about these issues?

If the church is to allow women to take positions of leadership it should do so, not because of the changing view of women in society, but because the Bible clearly states that they have every right to serve in these positions within the church.

In fact there are over fifty scriptures that deal with the issue of slavery and several of them seem to promote the idea.
(Eph 6:5-6, Col. 3:22, Col. 4:1, 1 Tim. 6:1)

It is the purpose of this study to answer this question:

Does the Bible support women holding positions of leadership within the church?

III. A STUDY INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT THE SUBJECT

A Biblical view of the position of women in the church is what we are looking for...

IV. A LOOK AT GOD'S CREATION BEFORE THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 1:26-28 - Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping

thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

V. BOTH THE MAN AND THE WOMAN WERE MADE INTO THE IMAGE OF GOD

At this point both the man and the woman are co-equal.

Both are created in the image of God.

Both are to have dominion over all the earth.

In fact, their differences were not a source of discord or inequality, but a beautiful compliment to each other.

TOGETHER, they make the full picture of mankind!

TOGETHER, God gave them the task of overseeing and ruling His creation!

TOGETHER, families are created, provided for, taught and nurtured!

TOGETHER, God called my wife and Me to Pastor Church of the Promise.

Even most of the world still knows that a it's best for children to have both a mother and father!

And BOTH carry authority and teach those children!

Genesis 1:31 - "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."

Genesis 2:7-8 - "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed."

VI. CREATION OF MAN

Genesis 2:16-17 - "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat it you shall surely die.'"

VII. MAN WAS GIVEN THE LAW

It is interesting that in this passage of scripture that the law was given to man before the creation of the women.

Genesis 2:18 - "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'"

VIII. MAN IS TO BE IN COMMUNITY

This is the first thing that God says is not good; it is not good for man to be alone.

God created man to be in community.

"What God here says of the first man Solomon says of all men (Eccl. 4:9, etc.), that two are better than one, and woe to him who is alone."

IX. WOMAN IS MAN'S COUNTERPART

Notice also that God was not going to create a servant for man - but a helper.

The Hebrew word for helper which is found in the text is 'ezer ke-negdo' which literally means counterpart.

Genesis 2:21 - "So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into the women the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man."

X. CREATION OF WOMAN

Women is created unique in the fact that she is created not just from dust, but of the rib of the man.

Genesis 2:23-24 - "And the man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be Woman, because she was taken out of man.' For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

XI. MAN SACRIFICES FOR WOMAN

Woman is made of man's bone and flesh.

They are to become one.

Gen. 1:27 - "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"

Gen. 2:7 - "and the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being"

Gen. 2:22 - "then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman"

The account of creation of male and female in Genesis 1-2 – which we take as a foundational theological statement of the Creator's design and intention – affirms male and female as equal and complementary.

Both are bearer, together, of God's image (Gen 1:26-27).

Both are given the mandate to responsible sovereignty over the created order (Gen 1:28).

Genesis 2:18 (Young's Literal Translation) - And Jehovah God saith, `Not good for the man to be alone, I do make to him an helper -- as his COUNTERPART.'

COUNTERPART = (Heb. Ezer) Can be translated as "helper". Denotes assistance rendered at a point of real need, whether by God or by a fellow human being. It emphasizes effective strength supplied from outside oneself, meeting exigent circumstances rather than merely offering sympathy.

The creation account of Genesis affirms the woman to be of the same essence as man ("bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh," Gen 2:23).

The view that God intended the woman for a restricted role in the home, church and society cannot be grounded in the order of creation!

XII. CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIP AFTER THE FALL

Genesis 3:16-19 - "To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'"

1. The curse is proclaimed

One of the consequences for women was the loss of equality with men, as men were to "rule" over women, instead of men and women ruling together.

The relationship between Adam and Eve had been affected by the fall.

Men ruling over women is part of a curse.

2. Jesus restored mankind (men and women) to a position of equality!

When Jesus came as sinless man and died as the Messiah on the cross for us, the restoration of mankind (men and women) began to take place at that very moment.

Romans 5:12 - "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...

Romans 5:17-19 - For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who received the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."

3. Jesus has given life to all Christians!

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

Galatians 3:25-29 - "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (the law). For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

4. Paul proclaims all are equal in God's sight!

Gal. 3:26-28

- 26. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,
- 27. for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- 28. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The curse of inequality has been abolished!

XIII. WOMEN IN THE BIBLE IN LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY POSITIONS

Old Testament:

1. Miriam is a key leader in the history of Israel!

Exodus 15:20-21

20. Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.

21. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

She is spoken of along with Aaron and Moses who brought the nation out of slavery.

Micah 6:4 - "I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Marian." She was so important that when she died her death was mourned as a public calamity.

God put Miriam in a key position of leadership.

2. Huldah instructs the priests!

2 Kings 22:14-20

14. Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.

15. She said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me,

16. 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read.

17. Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.'

18. Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, `This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard:

19. Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people, that they would become accursed and laid waste, and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD.

20. Therefore I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.'" So they took her answer back to the king.

She is renowned as a prophetess.

3. Deborah is a judge of Israel!

New Testament:

1. Anna a Prophetess!

Luke 2:36-38

36. There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

37. and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

38. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

An aged widow who was a prophetess (84 years old).

2. Pheobe a Deaconess!

Romans 16:1-2

1. I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea.
2. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

This woman was a deaconess in the church at Cenchrea.

She filled an important position of leadership.

3. Priscilla a teacher (possibly Pastoral team member)!

While not officially titled as a "Pastor," her actions reflect pastoral qualities and teaching authority.

Priscilla (Acts 18:26) (Mentioned 5 times in the Bible.)

Priscilla and her husband Aquila are often mentioned with great respect by Paul.

Acts 18:24-26

24. Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.
25. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.
26. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

Priscilla is usually listed ahead of Aquila.

The fact that Priscilla's name precedes Aquila's in several instances points to her significant role and contribution to the early church.

This was UNUSUAL in the Greco-Roman context which was very masculine driven!

Eph 4:11-12

11. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

12. to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

But at the very least, it does mean that Her and her husband were equal in their God given teaching/ pastoral type duties which they did together!

Priscilla and Aquila are both found fulfilling the role mentioned in these verses as they teach Apollos.

4. Junia, a fellow prisoner of Paul was an Apostle!

Romans 16:7 - Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Junia is a fellow-prisoner who is OF NOTE AMONG the apostles.

"of note" = (NIV-outstanding – Lit.-eminent, prominent)

"among" = en (a preposition) – properly, in (inside, within); (figuratively) "in the realm (sphere) of," as in the condition (state) in which something operates from the inside (within).

Junia is a women's name!

The female identity of Junia was accepted without objection during the first twelve centuries of the church, according to the writings of the church fathers. Paul's "enthusiastic acclamation" of Junia prompted Chrysostom, prominent Church Father, to marvel at her apparent devotion such that "...she would be even counted worthy of the appellation of apostle."-Some scholars see Romans 16:7 as proof that Paul the Apostle, whose name is ascribed to fourteen epistles in the New Testament, encouraged female leaders in the Church.

5. Daughters of Phillip - Prophetesses

Acts 21:8-9

8. Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.

9. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

Eusebius writes, "After him there were FOUR PROPHETESSES, the daughters of Philip, at Hierapolis in Asia. Their tomb is there and the tomb of their father."

6. Daughters of Israel - Prophetesses

Joel 2:28-29

28. `And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

29. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Acts 2:21 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Acts 2:16-18

16. No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18. Even on my servants, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and THEY WILL PROPHECY.

The Prophet Joel not only proclaims that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"...

But also, that God will use both men and women to speak forth His Word through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Biblically-defined prophecy functions to:

- Illuminate Scripture with fresh relevance.
- Expose sin and summon repentance.
- Strengthen suffering saints with divine promises.
- Direct corporate mission in harmony with revealed truth.

God's presence filled Christians regardless of age and gender at the day of Pentecost just as He does today.

XIV. TERMS USED FOR WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

1. Prophet – Prophetess... Found both in the Old and the New Testament.

2. Ministers or Servants... the literal translation Deacon.

Romans 16:1- I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea.

3. Fellow workers or labors...

Romans 16:3 - Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:3-4 - Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Fellow prisoner... Romans 16:7 - Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

4. The woman at the well

John 4:27-30

27. Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

28. Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

29. "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

30. They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

John 4:39-42

39. Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

40. So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

41. And because of his words many more became believers.

42. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

5. Mary Magdalene...

Jn 20:14-18

14. At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16. Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

17. Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18. Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

2 Peter 3:16 – He (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

1 Corinthians 11:5 And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head--it is just as though her head were shaved.

1 Corinthians 14:34 - women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.

A problem arises in the fact that Paul has already given the instruction of proper dress when women speak in church in 1 Cor. 11:5!

Why would Paul include instructions of head coverings when he would later instruct women not to speak?

1 Corinthians 14:26 - What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a

tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

Paul's concern in 14:26-35 is the disruption of the service.

The service was to be orderly because God is a God of peace (14:33) and a God of order (14:40).

1 Cor. 14:35 - If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

If we take 1 Cor. 14:35 at face value –

That would mean that there is no instruction for un-married women at all!

1 Timothy 1:3-7

3. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer

4. nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith.

5. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

6. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.

7. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

1 Timothy 1:18-19

18. Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

19. holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

- 3. If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,
- 4. he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions
- 5. and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

1 Timothy 2:11-15

- 11. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.
- 12. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.
- 13. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.
- 14. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.
- 15. But women will be saved through childbearing--if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

Paul teaches...

- 1. The order of creation,
- 2. Eve's part in the fall of mankind, and
- 3. That childbearing as being a good thing.

1 Timothy 2:2 - "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that they may lead a quiet (silent) and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

XV. The guiding principles are love and unity!

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul wrote about gender distinction.

In chapter 12, he described complementary function and unity.

In chapter 13, he addressed the most important of all issues – love.

Jn.17:20-21

20. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

21. that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be on in Us."

Eph 4:4-6

4. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--

5. one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6. one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.