

2Timothy 3:16-17

Path To Unity

Path to unity

- “Declaration and Address” Thomas Campbell in 1809
- “To be bound and judged only by scripture. Everyone must be allowed to judge for themselves. We will all give an account to God.”
- “Not a creed. A path to get back to the things just as the apostles left them. To be on the same ground the church was on at the beginning.”
- The church is one. It consist of those in every place who profess faith in Christ and obey him in all things, according to scripture and show the same in their temper and conduct. These are properly called Christians.

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- The church will have individual congregations but there should not be any schisms nor uncharitable divisions among them. They should receive each as Christ received them. They should all walk by the same rule, to mind and speak the same thing and be perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment.
- In order to do this, nothing should be required except what is expressly taught and commanded in the word of God by express terms or approved precedent.
- Scripture consist of the Old Testament and New Testament which are inseparably connected making one perfect and entire revelation of God's will. The New Testament is a perfect constitution for the worship, discipline, and government of the church and a perfect rule for the duties of its members.

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- With respect to commands or ordinances from Jesus where scripture is silent regarding time or manner of performance, no human authority has power to supply the supposed deficiency by making laws for the church. Nor can any human authority impose new commands or ordinances on the church. Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the church that is not as old as the New Testament.
- As we study scripture we will draw certain conclusions from our process of thinking which may truly be called the doctrine of God's holy word. But our conclusions are not formally binding upon the consciences of others unless they see the connection and recognize them to be true. Their faith must not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

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- As we study scripture and gain greater knowledge, we should never consider that others must attain our level of understanding before they can be considered as truly faithful. The church did and ever will consist of little children, young men and fathers.
- It is not necessary that persons have a particular knowledge and understanding of God's truth in order to have a place in the church. Knowing of their lost condition and of the way of salvation in Jesus, coupled with faith and obedience to him according to his word, is all that is absolutely necessary to qualify them for admission into his church.
- We should consider all who are walking by faith in obedience to Jesus to be a part with us of God's family. Whom God has joined together no man should dare put asunder.

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- Division among Christians is a horrible evil and produces many other evils. It causes confusion and every evil work.
- All the corruptions and divisions that have taken place in the church of God can be traced to one of two causes or both. (1) Neglecting a part of God's revealed will. (2) Treating what is human opinion or human invention as if they were the word of God.