



CGOM

Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

1-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

Mini Study

Is There 'One Faith'?

"...let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, in this name this one stands before you whole. This is the Stone counted worthless by you the builders, the one who has come to be into the Head of the Corner; and there is salvation in no other One, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved"

Acts 4:10-12

To make such an exclusive claim could be understood as sheer arrogance! Yet it was made by that giant of early Christianity, the apostle Peter. He had been intensively trained by Jesus the Messiah, and his words reflect the very mind and word of God.

'No other name....' That's the key, for Jesus was the image of the Father God, and bore His Name. What does the claim mean? Simply that there is but one God, the Creator of all that is, and who has made from one man all people on our planet. As Sovereign He dictates what form religion takes. Any fundamental deviation from His revelation is a *different religion*.

- the apostle Paul recognizes that there are '*...many gods*' (I Corinthians 8:5) That is, there are in the world a variety of competing religions each committed to one or more gods. Apart from the 'major' world religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism) there are countless minors
- but the apostle recognizes the logical conclusion that there can be *only one*. To be 'God' implies sovereignty, uniqueness, awesome power and authority
- Jews, Muslims, Christians - together comprising two-thirds of humanity - claim to worship the same God. And they do indeed share some beliefs and traditions: for example, God is one, the soul survives death, heaven or hell on death. Yet they are, clearly, vastly different. Take the weekly day of worship: for Jews it is Saturday, Friday for Islam, Sunday for Christians. Islam has its own Scriptures, the Koran, while Judaism rejects the Christian New Testament
- within each faith there is sectarian division - Orthodox and Reform, Sunni and Shi'ite, Roman Catholic and Protestant. And the kaleidoscope of beliefs within Protestantism beggars belief. All reflecting the mind of the Sovereign and unchanging God? Not likely
- the question arises: *Is the one God the author of all these different teachings?* After all, He claims that He doesn't change
- it should not be a surprise to learn that since man was created JHVH, Jehovah God, has consistently insisted on one core body of doctrine. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham - all the faithful down the millennia have embraced it. In a different age, for example, God protected His revealed Day of Rest, the seventh-day Sabbath, by the penalty of death. It's the sign of the covenant God makes with us
- Christianity alone - *in so far as it is faithful to the Scriptures* - is rooted in the faith revealed by God to Israel

*Request the free articles:
The Faith Once Delivered and The Law of Life*

Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
©2006 The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
www.cgom.org

This article may be freely copied and distributed as long as it is done in its entirety, including this notice, and is given away free, without any charge to the recipient.

Write us for a free catalog of other free articles we have to offer.