

# **Ecumenical Life**

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## I. Introduction. (Acts 2:44)

- A. In the early church there was serious unity with Christ and one another.
- B. Ecumenical means those who are all over the earth. It has been adapted to mean all the churches and is often used in association with Church Councils.

## II. An ecumenical movement that is not of God.

### A. Many bait people into unity.

1. If it took two millennium for Jesus' prayer to be answered then one's faith could be shaken.
2. It was answered, however, at Pentecost.

### B. Bringing Christian bodies together where no truth is sacrificed.

1. This is to be desired.

### C. Bringing Christians together where truth is sacrificed.

1. The World Council of Churches; a dangerous institution.
2. There is a difference between Christendom and the church.
  - a. The Scripture teaches that Christendom shall be unprepared for the coming of Christ.
  - b. The church is another thing though - there is beautiful unity in it. (Ephesians 4)
3. Join nothing that questions the truth of the Bible.
  1. Remember the teachings about the Harlot (Revelation 17), and of the Apostles, and of Jesus.
  2. Evangelicals are too easily rethinking things based upon culture and science.
  3. There ought to be more division than unity in Christendom so that we withdraw from all that is not of Christ.
  4. A free Protestant may very well be a Protestant in chains.

## III. An ecumenical movement that is of God.

### A. Reasons for the church's unity.

1. A press from antagonisms on the outside.
2. A drawing from an internal magnetism - the Holy Spirit.

B. Healthy sheep go where the flock is.

1. The flock is where the shepherd is.
2. The sheep need each other.
3. If you do not think that you need the church, you probably do.

C. The communion of the saints.

1. There is a unity between the saints beyond the grave and those before it in Christ.
2. It is a unity of appreciation, love, devotion, and a union in the Holy Spirit.
3. We will be surprised at some of the people who we will find to be in that communion.

D. The ends.

1. Experiencing the Holy Spirit.
2. Becoming Christ conscious.
3. That we would become a community that would give back to evangelicalism.

**Application questions.**

1. What are the primary distinctions between an ecumenical movement that is from God and one that is not from God?

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2. Why is it so essential to be wary of joining bodies that compromise the truth of God?

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3. What steps will you take to foster a community that is Christ conscience and experiencing the Holy Spirit? How will this draw believers together in unity?

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