

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

First Things First!

This the first Sunday of 2020, the beginning of a New Year.

*The **most important thing** about anything is its foundation.*

- *If the foundation is not solid, everything built on it will be questionable.*

So, let's begin 2020 affirming our foundation

If the foundation of our faith is not solid...

- *Everything built on it will be questionable*

*.....
A religious legal expert asked Jesus – **What's the foundation?***

Mark 12:29,

*Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, **the LORD our God, the LORD is one.**'"*

God IS One

As with much of what the Infinite God said, there is much meaning.

*.....
The first truth of that eternal reality is –*

*There is **Only ONE** of Him!*

*There is no other **Eternal, Uncreated, Self-Existent ONE -***

*The **ONE** who created **ALL that is** out of nothing but **His Own Will***

There are not even any pretenders to that role

*.....
The next reality is –*

*He **IS** Always **ALL One**...*

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

When the beginning was beginning...

*"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.**"*

*.....
There is much well intended, but **misguided error** among some Christians today*

*Too often people speak of **God as Separated**...*

Especially the Holy Spirit –

- *As if He is **somewhat different***
- *As if we can identify with **God without Him***

- As if God is somehow, temporarily **not All ONE**

God is **ALWAYS** and **ONLY ONE!!!**

He **IS** never Not **Entirely ONE!!!**

.....
To speak of **God** as **not including** the **Holy Spirit...**

Or speak of the **Holy Spirit** as not including the **Father** and the **Son...**

Is Heresy!

Heresy, literally separates or divides...

And to separate God is **the ultimate heresy!**

.....
To think of faith in God, with Jesus, but **lacking His Holy Spirit...**

- Is a hindering limitation

Most often it is simply a lack of complete introduction

When Paul came to Ephesus, he found disciples who knew nothing of the Holy Spirit – **Acts 19:1-6**

.....
Paul addressed an equal, opposite error with the Corinthians

I Corinthians 12:28-30

“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. **Are all** apostles? **Are all** prophets? **Are all**

teachers? **Are all** workers of miracles? **Do all** have gifts of healings? **Do all** speak with tongues? **Do all** interpret?”

***I Corinthians 12:4-11**

What does He give to you & me? **We don’t know ahead of time.**

- But we do know **He is here to live in, and through every one of us** who receive the **Lord Jesus** into our lives.

.....
If you are unaware of Him and His desired work in you yet...

I highly recommend you ask and invite Him

We’re told to “**Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts**” (**I Cor. 14:1**)

- I encourage you to **trust Him with the choice.** He already wants your best.
- Some have mistakenly come to desire the gift more than the Giver.

.....
When might He impart some of His gifts?

- I don’t know, but we could ask right now
- He chose to impart to me in the privacy of personal prayer

I do exhort us all to **not proceed** into this year without Him...

ALL of Him – Father, Son and Holy Spirit