

## One Hope, Ephesians 4:1-6

- One
  - A list of “one’s”
  - One Body
  - One Spirit
  - One Hope
  - One Lord
- Hope
  - A reasonable and confident expectation of a future event
  - Someone or something on which expectations are centered
  - Hebrews 11:1; Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - Hebrews 11:1; Ahora bien, la fe es la garantía de lo que se espera, la certeza de lo que no se ve.
  - Most Scholars I read define our hope as eternal life
    - While that is a great hope and the ultimate victory to our lives here, I don’t think this is what Paul is talking about
    - 1 Corinthians 15:14–19; 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
  - Christianity hinges on the resurrection of Jesus
    - Matthew 16:21–23; 21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”
    - God required a sacrifice for our sins and that was the sinless Jesus (God’s only begotten, unique, preeminent Son)
    - While the crucifixion is a big part of the sacrifice, it was Jesus resurrection that broke the bonds of death
    - Acts 2:23–24; 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
    - 2 Timothy 1:8–10; 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
  - Even the gift of the Spirit hinged on His resurrection
    - John 16:7; Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

- “Just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call”
  - We are called by the Gospel
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14; 13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - And the Gospel centers around Jesus and His sacrifice, culminating in His resurrection
  - All four gospels give accounts of this best of miracles
  - Jesus himself talks about it
  - John 10:16–18; 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
- Our hope is in the resurrection of the “one shepherd”
- One Lord
  - 1 Corinthians 8:4–6; 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
    - I often hear criticism about how we (Christians) use the scriptures to prove the Jesus in the Christ
    - But if you want to learn about Jesus, the Gospel records and letters written to both people and churches are the only in depth source we have (some other authors like Josephus have some minor things to say)
    - We have gone over their validity and accuracy and they have withstood the tests that determine their historical accuracy
    - If you want to learn about World War I you go to the books that contain the history of WWI
    - If you want to learn about Jesus, you go to the books that contain His history
    - Let’s not be confused because they are bound up under one title
    - There are 66 different books written over the span of 2000 years by about 40 authors
    - So, when John quotes Jesus as saying, “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.” I have no doubt that Jesus said it
      - Then He proved it through the resurrection
  - No other so called “Lord” can make this claim
    - The founder of Buddhism in this world is Buddha Shakyamuni. In his early years he lived as a prince in his royal palace but when he was 29 years old he retired to the forest where he followed a spiritual life of meditation. After six years he attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya, India. [www.aboutbuddhism.com](http://www.aboutbuddhism.com)
    - Peter even allows that David is dead and buried in his tomb
    - Acts 2:29–32; 29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of

his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

- The resurrection of Jesus makes Him unique and validates His claims as the “Anointed One,” the Messiah, The Christ
- We can claim other ways to “enlightenment,” but Jesus is the only way
- John 14:1–6; 1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Our Calling
  - Our one hope in the resurrection of the One Lord, Jesus the Messiah
  - Our One Hope in the One Lord is THE WAY