



By now, you've heard three messages on ONE. (If not, go to iTunes and listen to the podcasts or purchase the messages you missed from Guest Services.)

One Lord. One Church. One Mission. The message for 2012 is that we are unstoppable when we live out the power of ONE. Let me summarize the three dimensions of ONE.

### ONE LORD

Pagan people in biblical times were polytheistic, believing in many gods. In their view, a god ruled over a realm, and his (or her) power was limited. It was natural for the people of Syria to assume that the God of Israel, who had defeated them in a hilltop skirmish, could not possibly also be a "god" of the valleys. The Lord took their lack of understanding very seriously. A man of God carried the word of prophecy to set the record straight: "Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD" (I Kings 20:28).

The cornerstone truth of the nature of God is clearly stated in the Bible: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The implications of the One God message are many, but don't miss this critical point: one God is all there is, and that one God is all you need. He is the God of hills and valleys. He is the God of every situation in your life, and there is nothing outside of His scope of influence and concern.

Paul's words sum it up nicely: "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:6). While He is one, He is multifaceted and has manifested Himself as Creator, Father, Healer, Savior, Provider, Counselor, Comforter and whatever else you need. You can find it all in Him and be complete in Him. (See Colossians 2:10.)

### ONE CHURCH

It is important to understand that the church is the only thing God has ever purchased. He created the world with His Words. He has need of nothing. The Bible reminds us that He owns the world. (See Psalm 24:1; Psalm 50:8-12.) Amazingly, God, who has everything, paid the ultimate price for the church, purchasing it with His own blood. (See Acts 20:28.)

He bought one church and intends for His church to be one. One church speaks of unity, and unity speaks of diversity, for if we were all clones there would be no need for unity. There is one church and many members. Each of us needs the rest of us. The church

is designed to function as a body with many members. We are the body of Christ, with members in particular. (See I Corinthians 12:27.)

It is high time for the body of Christ to fully function, with every member doing his part. When that blessed day comes, the Bible says that we will make increase in the body and will build ourselves up in love. (See Ephesians 4:16.)

We can hear the heartbeat of God for His church in the prayer of Jesus in John 17. He prays for the church to be one so that the world will believe on Him through His unified church.

The heartbeat of this pastor and the mantra of my ministry at Atlanta West is "There is a place for you." There is a place to belong and to serve. It can all happen in a church that is one.

### ONE MISSION

The mission of the church is abundantly clear and simple in concept. Go everywhere and tell everyone the Good News. Make disciples of all nations. Tell them that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins. He was buried in a tomb and rose on the third day. You can be saved by accepting what Jesus Christ did on the cross as your sole means of salvation and then applying His death, burial and resurrection to your own life.

Salvation can be yours by obeying the simple command of Scripture: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Sure, there's more. In fact, there is a whole new life that follows what the Bible calls the new birth salvation process just described. That's the one mission of the church.

The mission gets exciting when you realize that it can be implemented by many methods. A Spirit-directed church is creative and resourceful, not locked into a rut of ineffective methods. God's church is born of the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit and sent by the Spirit.

The Acts church was nimble and flexible. The mission was advanced from formal worship settings to street corners. The Gospel found voice in a school and jails. Spirit-empowered disciples found ways to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ in enough ways to convince me that God will always make a way if we are committed to the mission.

One Lord. One Church. One Mission. Let's do this together in 2012.