“For Us There Is Only One”
I Cor. 8:5,6

Introduction:
A. Early Christians faced a two-fold task in evangelizing their world.
   1. To broaden the Jewish concept of God to include Jesus as God.
   2. To narrow the Gentile concept of God to exclude many gods.
B. American Christians face a two-fold task in evangelizing their world.
   1. To broaden the concept of some religious people to include the one’s of the N.T.
   2. To narrow the concept of other religious people to only the one’s of the N.T.
C. Every Christian needs to take a close look at many versus one.

Discussion:
I. The One’s Of Divine Revelation (Eph. 4:4-6).
   B. One Lord, Jesus Christ, in spite of what religious Jews thought about it. (Acts 2:36)
   D. One hope, heavenly hope, in spite of what premillennialist think about it.
   E. One faith, the gospel (cf. Jude 3), in spite of what world thinks about it.
   F. One baptism, immersion in water for remission of sins, regardless to what religious world thinks. (Acts 8; 1 Pet. 3:21).
   G. One body, the church, regardless of what Protestants think about it. (Eph. 1:22,23; Matt. 16:18).

II. The Many’s Of Human Tradition.
   A. The evolution from monotheism to polytheism. (Rom. 1:18-32).
      1. Neglect of the one true God. (v.21).
      2. Reshaping the one God into image of their liking. (v. 21-24).
         a. One that more like them. (v. 23).
         b. One that would let them do their thing. (v. 28).
      3. As different men had different interests, many God’s came into being.
      4. Perpetuated in succeeding generations by ignorance, prejudice and tradition.
   B. The evolution of other ones to many.
      1. From one faith to many faiths.
         a. Usually starts with perversion of gospel. (Gal. 1:8,9).
         b. Evolves into new systems of faith and salvation.
         c. Following generations accept it as matter of course.
      2. From one baptism to many baptisms.
      3. From one body to many bodies.
         a. Usually begins with small perversions of N. T. church.
         b. Evolves into a restructured version of the church.
         c. Different groups restructure the restructure to their liking.
         d. Succeeding generations then accept it all in ignorance and tradition.

Conclusion:
A. Paul had a big task on his hands in a many-gods society.
   1. He had to convert them to truth about the original God.
   2. He had to counter their long standing tradition of many Gods.
B. We have a similar task in a many-faiths, many-baptisms, many-bodies society.
   1. We have to convert people to the truth about the originals.
   2. We have to convince them to give up long standing traditions of many.
   3. We must remember: When the Bible says, one, to us there can only be one - no matter what our traditional ties may be go many - Remember the early Christians had emotions too and they had friends and loved ones who worshiped other Gods.