

The Spurgeon Underground Fellowship

Fellowship and Forum Guidelines

(Revised and Posted: June 26, 2003)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...

1 Corinthians 12

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

True fellowship seems rare in the church today as many are being tossed about by every wind of doctrine. Indeed, many think that fellowship is simply companionship or time spent together. Some advocate unity in fellowship at the expense of sound doctrine. Others uphold sound doctrine but fall victim to unsound practice. Fellowship, in the Biblical sense, is a much deeper thing than unity, companionship, or the sharing of common goals. It is deep love and care for one another in the body that is motivated by and founded upon our love for God and obedience to His Word (1 John 5:2-3). It is rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep, not out of sympathy, or even empathy, but out of the reality that we are members of one another in Body of Christ. When one of us expresses joy in a victory won it is a victory for all of us -- won for us by Christ for His glory alone. When another grieves a loss beyond comprehension, it is that fellowship of suffering and the participation in peace that is far above our human understanding that brings home the point that Jesus' High Priestly prayer is being answered in our midst.

Jesus prayed as it is recorded in John 17, ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me,**

and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴"Father, I desire that they

also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵O righteous Father!

The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

In the Providence of God, He has seen fit to bring like-minded believers together for fellowship through different venues available on the Internet. In our quest to glorify God in all we do (1 Cor. 10:31) and with the purpose of fostering a true brotherhood in the Body of Christ, we have seen fit to found this forum. In doing so, we express our gratitude to God for the grace He has bestowed to His children through the offering of His Son as the one all sufficient sacrifice for the sins of His elect. In our worship and our lives we strive to be God focused, Christ exalting, Spirit filled, and Bible centered. In that light,

We confess together that we hold firmly to:

- **The Doctrines of Grace**

Summarized by the acronym **TULIP** and also know as **Calvinism**, we affirm that these doctrines represent the teaching of the Word of God as the Holy Spirit through sacred Scripture reveals to us the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is all of God and His grace.

T – Total Depravity

U – Unconditional Election

L – Limited Atonement (also known as Definite Atonement or Particular Redemption)

I – Irresistible Grace

P – Perseverance of the Saints

(More on the Doctrines of Grace can be found at

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/doctrinesofgrace.html>)

- **The Five *Solas* of the Reformation**

Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone

Sola Gratia – Grace Alone

Sola Fide – Faith Alone

Solus Christus – Christ Alone

Soli Deo Gloria – For God's Glory Alone

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone. The chief end of man is to glorify God alone and enjoy Him forever.

(For more on the Five *Solas*, go to
<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/fivesolas.html>)

- **Believer's Baptism** (Credo Baptism)

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be to the person who is baptized a sign of his fellowship with Christ in His death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into Christ; of remission of sins; and of that person's giving up of himself to God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life. Those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to, our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper subjects for this ordinance. The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, in which the person is to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (LBCF, 1689)

(For a look at the differing views of Baptism go to:
<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/baptism.html>)

We therefore join together in this fellowship for the purpose of edification, education, and debate as we seek to be “doers of the Word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). In joining, we also agree to abide by the rules of the forum, which are not meant to be burdensome but embraced as they allow for a gracious exchange of ideas.

The rules for participation in this forum as are follows:

- 1. Participation in this fellowship is by invitation only.** A member in good standing may recommend (nominate) new members by sending a message to the members of the board giving basic information about the potential new member -- name, church, background, and any other relevant information. If there are no objections from the other members of the fellowship, the new member will be invited to participate and the Board Administrator will activate the new account.
- 2. Participation in this fellowship requires adherence to:**
 - a. The Doctrines of Grace
 - b. The Five *Solas* of the Reformation
 - c. Believer's Baptism
- 3. Continued participation in this fellowship requires agreement with these doctrinal statements (#2) without wavering.**
- 4. Continued participation in this fellowship requires Christ honoring behavior.** This includes the following:
 - a. No profanity
 - b. No link to or endorsement of anything pornographic in nature
 - c. No abusive speech

- d. No personal put downs or prideful condescension
- e. No disregard or disrespect for the administrators, moderators, or the Board of Oversight
- f. No spamming (using the member list to send unsolicited advertisements)

5. The Board of Oversight reserves the right to move, close, remove, or edit any post or thread and rebuke or remove any member if these rules are violated in any way.

In summary, if you are accepted as a member of The Spurgeon Underground Fellowship, you are expected to act like a disciple of Jesus Christ. Since our goal is the glory of God by means of edification, education, and debate, we expect any exchange, debate or discussion to be founded on Scripture and all discussion should be conducted in a manner that offers the highest esteem for other members, without regard for their ability to comprehend the subject(s) under consideration. Condescension, "talking down," or insulting a fellow member will not be tolerated. Any subscribers who intentionally portray themselves to be intellectually or spiritually superior in contrast to another member will be removed from this fellowship. Pride and arrogance will find no lasting home on this list.

In Essentials – Unity

In Non-Essentials – Liberty

In All Things - Charity

If you have been invited by a member, have read the rules of this fellowship, and agree to abide by them at all times on this forum, welcome to our fellowship.

Yours and His,
The Board of Oversight