

BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN UNITY

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. . . . These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, . . . I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: . . . I will spue thee out of my mouth. —
REVELATION 3:13-16.

BY CARL McINTIRE

The question of "Christian unity" is being discussed in many churches. The ecumenical movement, as represented by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches, is promoting "Christian unity" with a one-world church as the goal.

What saith the Scriptures?

1. True Christian Unity Is Spiritual

The Bible teaches a unity which belongs to the people of God. This is begotten by the Spirit of God. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6), and its reality is found in the hearts of all who have truly been "born again." Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that the unity of God's people must be an organic, visible church union of all churches into one great world organization. Instead, it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord" (Zech. 4:6). In the Apostles' Creed we confess our faith in the "Holy Catholic Church," which is the redeemed of every age!

2. True Christian Unity Is Heavenly

The Bible teaches the communion of the saints. "Whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thess. 5:10). We are come "to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant" (Heb. 12:23, 24). There is no earthly organization that can reach into