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# CHRISTADELPHIAN NASU STEERING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

The summer is over and there has been much discussion about the NASU unity initiative. Some brethren want to get on with the work of unity, feeling that we must intensify our efforts to end the division, God willing. Others feel they have not had sufficient opportunity to discuss the issues with those of “the other side”. Some others believe simple doctrines have been made too complex. Some fear and oppose the NASU.

However, we believe the following addresses these concerns:

## WHAT THE NASU PROCESS IS TRYING TO DO\*

- Honour God by seeking to end the division that has weakened us for over 100 years.
- Seek God’s guidance and blessing, which are essential to achieve unity.
- Use the Bible to understand the issues, avoiding traditional expressions and arguments.
- Arrange to have brethren of the two fellowships engage in the process.
- Dispel false opinions of what “the other side” believes.
- Clarify presumed differences that do not justify separation.
- Participate in meetings with an ecclesia or ecclesias to discuss beliefs.
- Prepare the way for fellowship that gives equal standing, throughout North America, to the BUSF+NASU and the BASF+NASU.

Delegates from some 40 ecclesias have agreed that there is not sufficient difference to justify separation. In keeping with the objectives above, they have outlined their agreements in the “North American Statement of Understanding” (NASU).

*\*(The NASU process does not address unity with the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith.)*

Here are some of the assurances that have resulted from recent doctrinal discussions:

## COMMON DOCTRINAL ASSURANCES

- The Covenants of Promise are a critical part of Bible teaching and our faith.
- Baptism makes us eligible for eternal life, subject to faithfulness.
- Baptism reconciles us to God, relating us to Christ instead of Adam.
- The Atonement (divine reconciliation) is key to salvation and therefore to the resurrection of the faithful.
- Baptism heightens a person’s responsibility to God.
- Jesus benefited from his own death.
- The doctrine of “clean flesh” is not Scriptural and is not to be taught.
- The teaching of the resurrection is central to our hope in Christ.
- All humanity is responsible to God, whether or not in covenant with Him.
- People who willfully reject God are liable to His judgments.
- Knowledge results in a responsibility before God.
- Knowledge and a “call to conscience” are necessary elements in a valid baptism.
- God will determine who outside the covenant justly should be raised for condemnation.
- One cannot identify those who will be judged as a consequence of “knowledge and calling”.
- One should not teach that God cannot raise or definitely will not raise anyone outside of the covenant.
- Young people should not be taught to “sow their wild oats” before baptism.

Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being. *1 Cor. 10:24*

## LET'S LOOK AT THE PROBLEM IN CONTEXT

Christadelphians, as a body, are unique in the world. We think it does matter what one believes. We believe in the inspiration of Scripture. We reject the idea of the trinity or the pre-existence of Christ. We believe in the Kingdom on earth, not in heaven-going. We reject the idea of a personal devil. We refuse to participate in war. We believe that man is mortal, rather than possessing an immortal soul. We believe in the resurrection at the last day and in the judgment. We believe in the return of the Lord Jesus. We believe in baptism by immersion after a declaration of belief in the gospel. As brethren, we all hold the Hope of Israel in common.

While some Christian denominations hold some of these beliefs, we are generally considered heretics for our faith for holding all these beliefs. Brethren in past ages have given their lives for what we believe and are actively persecuted today in several countries.

We are a tiny boat in a sea of unbelief and mis-belief.

We should pull together on the oars. We hold these beliefs in common. We are brethren. It is time to work together, to strengthen each other, recognizing that we share a precious and common faith. Through God's grace there will be a united people called out for God's Name at the coming of the Lord.

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

- Let us pray that God will bring about a Scripturally-sound union.
- Let us resolve to love one another and refuse to speak badly of each other.
- Let us find out what the "other side" really believes. The NASU committee will help.
- Let us never sow discord among brethren. We know the LORD hates this.

## IF A SOUND BASIS IS AGREED TO, WHAT WILL THE RESULT BE?

- An outpouring of joy and relief that this black cloud is finally removed.
- Stronger ecclesias, benefiting from each other's resources.
- More opportunities for young people.
- Enthusiasm for what we believe in common.
- A better opportunity to teach our friends the Truth.
- Stronger outreach and stronger community growth.
- Opportunities for more to serve in global mission efforts.
- With our Heavenly Father's blessing there will be joy in heaven.

### **Brethren of the Christadelphian NASU Steering Committee:**

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