

The Fiery God: The Church's Fire

John 17: 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one **as we are one**—

John 17: 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Acts 2: When the day of Pentecost came,
they were all together in one place. 2
Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a
violent wind came from heaven and filled
the whole house where they were sitting. 3
They saw what seemed to be **tongues of
fire** that separated and came to rest on
each of them.

Acts 2: 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues **as the Spirit enabled them.**

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

Acts 2: 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 **All the believers were together and had everything in common...** And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

T.B. Larimore

1843-1929





- 1843-1929
- Fought in Civil War.
- Primary task as preacher: get out of the way of God.
- Abhorred division and disunity
- Buried in Santa Ana, CA. Foy E. Wallace was a pallbearer.

Philippians 4: 5 Let your gentleness be
evident to all.

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Philippians 4: 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Foy E. Wallace

1896-1979





- 1896-1979
- Lived through division in CofC, Christian Church, and DofC.
- Was a self-proclaimed “soldier of righteousness”.
- Editor of Gospel Advocate.
- Rejected Larimore’s reconciling spirit.

The pre-Civil War and Wallace Church of Christ

was characterized by
“Christian Unity” and
“Restoration”.

*WE WILL THAT THIS BODY DIE, BE DISSOLVED, AND SINK INTO
UNION WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST AT LARGE; FOR THERE IS
BUT ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS WE ARE CALLED IN
ONE HOPE OF OUR CALLING.*

*BARTON W. STONE "THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE
SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERY."*

*OH THAT MINISTERS AND PEOPLE WOULD BUT CONSIDER, THAT
THERE ARE NO DIVISIONS IN THE GRAVE; NOR IN THAT WORLD
WHICH LIES BEYOND IT: THERE OUR DIVISIONS MUST COME TO
AN END.*

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL

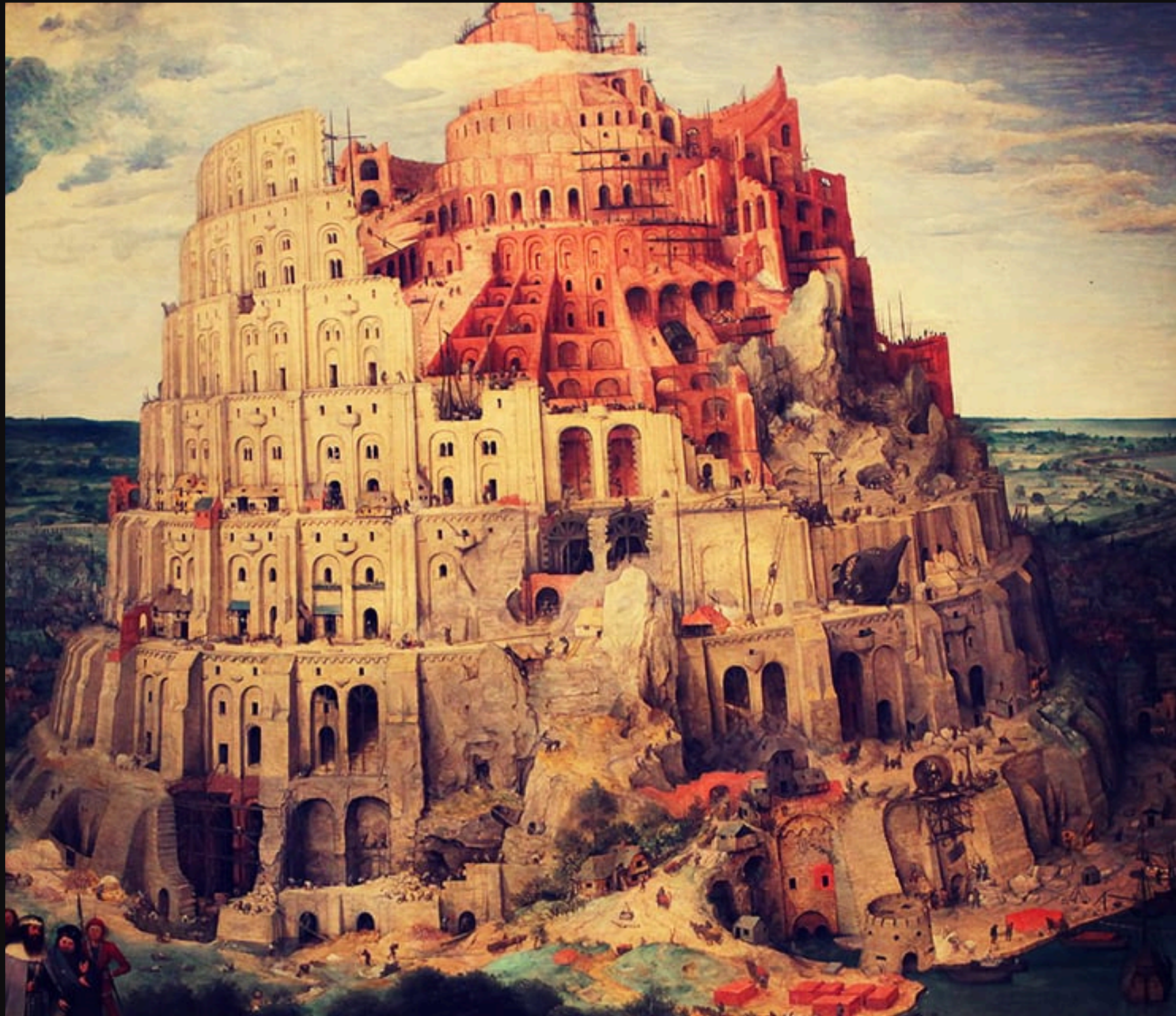
The post-Civil War and
Wallace Church of Christ

was characterized primarily by
“Restoration”.

Wallace: Distinction from all
others.

“Distinct” = “right” (& all others
are wrong)

Unity, the first expression of the
Holy Spirit, appears in Acts 2
because it reverses the division
of Babel.



Humanity,
powered by
pride, seeks to
elevate itself to
God.

- God confuses
their language.



Humanity,
powered by the
Holy Spirit,
receives Jesus
who has come
down.

– God unites
their language.

Religion: Unity according to Babel

Live a good life and do enough
good to get into heaven.

The common purpose in
religion
is to “get it right”.

Christianity: Unity according to Acts 2

Salvation comes through Christ
alone.

The common purpose in
Christianity
is to glorify God and live
according to the Spirit.

Unity is not a growth strategy.
It is what the cross demands.

When we allow conflict to
bring division,
we quench (1 Th. 5:19 – put out
the fire) the Holy Spirit.

Eidelweiss





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