

## IV. Course Outline

Class 1, September 14<sup>th</sup>

*Unity: A Display of God's Glory in the Local Church*

Class 2, September 21<sup>st</sup>

*Church Membership: The Context for Unity*

Class 3, September 28<sup>th</sup>

*Preaching: The Foundation for Unity*

Class 4, October 5<sup>th</sup>

*Prayer: God's Power Creates Unity*

Class 5, October 12<sup>th</sup>

*Ordinances: Foreshadowing Unity in Heaven*

Class 6, October 19<sup>th</sup>

*Church Governance: Godly Authority Fostering Unity*

Class 7, October 26<sup>th</sup>

*Church Fellowship: Building a Bond of Unity*

Class 8, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Discontentment with in the Church: A Test of Unity*

Class 9, November 9<sup>th</sup>

*Church Leadership: Submission for the Sake of Unity*

Class 10, November 16<sup>th</sup>

*Church Discipline: Preserving God-Glorifying Unity*

Class 11, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Giving and Service: Sacrifice for the Sake of Unity*

Class 12, November 30<sup>th</sup>

*Corporate Worship: Celebrating God-Given Unity*

Class 13, December 7<sup>th</sup>

*Evangelism: A Harvest of Unity*



## LIVING AS A CHURCH

### Class 1: Unity

*A Display of God's Glory in the Local Church*

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#### I. Introduction

*Three Facts:*

- We belong to God but live in this world
- We are to glorify God in our life as a church
- We are sinners

As a church, we work together to display God's *perfect* character as *imperfect* people

#### II. Ephesians 3-4: God's Goal for the Church

The mystery of the gospel (3:6):

God's intent for unity of Jews and Gentiles in the Church (3:10):

Living a worthy life (4:1-13)

Three conclusions:

1. Unity is central to the gospel
2. Unity glorifies God's wisdom
3. Unity is a responsibility of church members  
(1 Corinthians 1, James 2)

Examples of this principle elsewhere in Scripture:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:23)

“All the believers were one in heart and mind . . . with great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them.” (Acts 4:32-33)

### **III. The Benefits of Unity in the Church**

#### **1. Assurance of Salvation**

“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.” (1 John 3:14)

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us.” (1 John 3:19-20)

#### **2. Encouragement**

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Our need for the church

#### **3. Preservation of the Gospel**

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:14-16)

Unity must not be at the expense of doctrine.

Organizational (visible) unity vs. love between Christians

#### **4. Evangelism**

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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 . . . May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:20-23)

#### **5. Other Benefits**