

Course Outline

Class 1

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

Class 2

Church Membership: The Context for Unity

Class 3

Preaching: The Foundation for Unity

Class 4

Prayer: God's Power Creates Unity

Class 5

Ordinances: Foreshadowing Unity in Heaven

Class 6

Church Governance: Godly Authority Fostering Unity

Class 7

Church Fellowship: Building a Bond of Unity

Class 8

Discontentment with in the Church: A Test of Unity

Class 9

Church Leadership: Submission for the Sake of Unity

Class 10

Church Discipline: Preserving God-Glorifying Unity

Class 11

Giving and Service: Sacrifice for the Sake of Unity

Class 12

Corporate Worship: Celebrating God-Given Unity

Class 13

Evangelism: A Harvest of Unity

LIVING AS A CHURCH

Class 4: Prayer

God's Power Creates Unity



I. Introduction

- Prayer is important because it brings glory to God **by showing our dependence on Him**. *E.g.*, 1 Kings 18:36-37; Psalm 50:15; John 14:13.
- The purpose of this class to consider: (1) why praying together in the church is particularly significant; (2) how such prayer promotes unity within the church; and (3) how we, as members of GRBC, can contribute to this unity by being actively involved in the prayer life of the church.

II. Why is Corporate Prayer Important?

- A. God Uses United Prayer to Unleash the Power of the Gospel and Advance His Kingdom.

Acts 2:42-43 – “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

Acts 4:31 – “After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

B. God Imparts Wisdom and Guidance Through the Holy Spirit as the Church Prays.

Acts 1:24-25 -- "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry"

C. God is Glorified Through Our Dependence on Him in United Prayer.

D. God is Glorified Through the Unity of Our Pray Together.

B. Corporate Prayer Fosters A God-Centered Mindset.

- Praying together makes us more like-minded theologically as we hear the truths of Scripture applied in prayer.
- Application -- Pray biblically so as **to reflect the truths of scripture.**

C. Corporate Power Creates a Unity of Purpose.

- Prayer facilitates a unity of purpose as we unite around the ministries of the church.
- Application -- Be familiar with the church's ministries and pray for them regularly.

Two Additional Ways to Promote Unity in Prayer:

- Pray corporately for the preacher and the sermon.

Ephesians 6:19 ("Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains."); *see also* Romans 15:30.

- Pray through the directory; ask others for prayer requests; let others know of your prayers for them.
- Prayer for your assigned member (cards).
- Participate in the Sunday AM prayer time (scheduled every 6-8 weeks).

III. How Does Corporate Prayer Promote Unity?

A. Corporate Prayer Draws Us Closer Together.

- As we pray for each other we are drawn closer together.
- Application -- We should look for opportunities to pray with other members.