

Course Outline

Class 1: *Unity: A Display of God's Glory in the Local Church*

Class 2: *Membership: Unity through Depth of Commitment*

Class 3: *Diversity: Unity through Breadth of Commitment*

Class 4: *Preaching & Prayer: The Foundation for Unity*

Class 5: *Church Governance: Godly Authority Fostering Unity*

Class 6: *Church Fellowship: Building a Bond of Unity*

Class 7: *Discontentment within the Church: A Test of Unity*

Class 8: *Church Leadership: Submission for the Sake of Unity*

Class 9: *Church Discipline: Preserving God-Glorifying Unity*

Class 10: *Encouragement: Safeguarding Unity in Holiness*

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*

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For Further Study: [The Compelling Community: Where God's Power Makes a Church Attractive](#), by Mark Dever & Jamie Dunlop

LIVING AS A CHURCH

Class 3: Diversity

Unity through Breadth of Commitment

I. Introduction

Diversity: More important than it may seem

Diversity: Less important than it may seem

II. The Purpose of Diversity

"...So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Eph. 3:10)

- The mystery of Jew and Gentile (Eph. 3:6)
- The prior separation (Eph. 2:14)
- The supernatural power of God (Eph. 3:20-21)
- The illustration of marriage (Gen. 2:18, 24)

III. The Character of Diversity

Unity that surpasses:

1. Boundaries of Ethnicity
2. Boundaries of Age
3. Boundaries of Economics
4. Boundaries of Politics
5. Boundaries of Personality
6. Boundaries of Cultural Background

IV. The Foundation of Diversity

God's Work: Making one new man through the gospel

- “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph. 2:14)
- In this sense, ***we do nothing.***

Our Response: Cultivating and “keeping” unity in a diverse body

- “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3, NIV)

V. How Do We Cultivate Our Unity in Diversity?

A. Recognize the Invisibility of Your Culture

- Acts 6
- Rom. 12:10-12

B. Embrace Those Who Are Different from You

- “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free” – and we were all given one Spirit to drink” (1 Cor. 12:13)
- The balanced plate of relationships

C. Make Sacrifices for the Sake of Unity

- Comfort (Mark 9:35)
- Preferences (Rom. 12:10)
- Resources and Time (1 John 3:18)
- Habits

VI. Conclusion: Revelation 7:9-12