1. Cultivate unity in diversity
	* Grow in understanding your identity in Christ

(Eph. 4:1-4).

* + Grow in understanding Christ’s love for you

(Eph. 3:14-19)

**VI. Conclusion**

Course Schedule

Class 1: Diversity? Unity? For God's Sake!

**Class 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity**

Class 3: The Image of God

Class 4: God’s Purposes for Similarity in the Church

Class 5: Cultural Critique

Class 6: Loving the Other

Class 7: Working through Disunity

*If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at* *jamie.dunlop@capbap.org* *or Isaac Adams at isaacnadams@gmail.com.*

- George Mueller

****Core Seminar**

**Unity and Diversity in the Local Church**

***Class 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity***

**I. Introduction**

**II. Unity in Diversity is God’s Work**

Ephesians 2:11-3:21

* Grammar hunt!!!
* Unity in diversity is something God *has* done.
* What matters is what God has done—not what we build.
* How?
	+ Gospel identity
	+ Gospel love

**III. How Does God-Built Unity Change Us?**

Hope (Eph. 3:13).

**IV. When God-Built Unity and Diversity Go Missing**

What we lose:

1. Confirmation of the Gospel

Ephesians 3:10 – love between Jew and Gentile shows off God’s wisdom.

The pattern of signs and wonders in Acts.

1. Preservation of the Gospel

Christ’s body not just defined by different gifts (Romans 12) but different backgrounds (Ephesians 4)

Ephesians 4:13—we seek unity and maturity

Ephesians 4:14—so that our doctrine will be stable

Ephesians 4:15—as each part of the body does its work

“Rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, *when each part is working properly*, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

- Ephesians 4:15-16

Relationships based on nothing but Christ can actually be *more* close and grounded than those where we share a lot in common.

Confirmation + Preservation = Great Commission.

**V. What’s Our Role?**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3

The paradox of the Christian life: working *and* resting.

 Examples: 1 Cor. 3:6, 1 Thes. 4:3

Why? If God does the work, it glorifies his power. If he does the work through our work, our faith also glorifies his goodness.

1. We need to stop getting in the way

Extreme example: homogeneous growth principle

Lots of other examples

* + Ministry by similarity
	+ Picking church/small group based on similarity