

IV. Conclusion



Core Seminar

Unity and Diversity in the Local Church

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

I. Introduction: Why Explore Similarity in the Church?

1. Two dangers we need to avoid in this class:
 - a. Befriending only those who are similar to us.
 - b. Feeling guilty for any relationship where we have more than Christ in common.
2. Problems with thinking that similarity in the church is always bad:
 - a. It's not how we're made.
 - b. It's short-sighted.
 - c. It's paralyzing.

Course Schedule

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

Class 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity

Class 3: The Image of God in Our Unity and Diversity

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

Class 5: Counsel for Christians in the Minority

Class 6: Counsel for Christians in the Majority

Class 7: Working Through Disunity

*If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact:
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II. The Value of Similarity

1. People who understand you can instruct you better (Titus 2).
2. People who understand you can encourage you in your struggles (2 Cor. 1:4; Heb. 4:15).
3. Understanding builds trust (1 Pet. 3:6-7).
4. Understanding gives grace in exhortation (Gal. 2:11-21).

III. Pursuing the Right Balance

2. Be honest about what kind of church culture we have.
3. Learn how to build understanding without similarity.
4. Recognize that some people need more similarity than others.
5. Aspire to relationships where similarity isn't necessary.
6. See similarity as a special, and potentially dangerous, stewardship.
1. Recognize that you need multiple types of friendships.