

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

Core Seminars—Living as a Church

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



I. Introduction

Three Facts:

1. We belong to God but live in this world
2. We are to glorify God in our life as a church
3. 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

Context in chapter 2: The gospel and the implications of the gospel

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

Two dimensions in Ephesians 2:

- Breadth of commitment (verse 18)
- Depth of commitment (verse 19)

The importance of the supernatural

III. Counterfeit Unity

- Organizational unity
- Gospel-Plus Unity
 - Contrast with “gospel-revealing” unity
 - The appropriate role of similarity-driven relationships in the local church.

IV. What is Unity?

- Action: *Love for brothers and sisters in Christ across social boundaries*
- Purpose: *The glory of God in the vindication of his gospel*
- Source: *The love of Christ*
- Context: *The local church*

Christian Unity = *God-glorifying, gospel-revealing love for all brothers and sisters in Christ, fueled by our forgiveness in Christ that expresses itself most clearly in the assembly of the local church.*

V. What's At Stake?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
– Matthew 28:18b-20

1. Evangelism

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:35

The necessity of this community being supernatural

2. Discipleship

“...So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” – Ephesians 4:14-15

Unity important because ministry is the job of the whole church (Eph 4:12)

The importance of each member in fostering unity – 1 Cor 12:20, 25:
“There are many parts yet one body... that there may be no division in the body but that the members may have the same care for one another”

VI. Conclusion