**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**