

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*

Questions? Please email us:
mathewjohnfreeman@gmail.com
matt.merker@capbap.org

Core Seminars—*Living as a Church* Class 2: **Membership: Unity through Depth of Commitment**



I. Introduction

“How is the commitment we make to other people at church different from other commitments we make in life?”

II. Comfort-Based Commitment

In the context of consumer products

- Comfortable, safe, and easy.

In the context of the local church

- Commitment as process.

III. Calling-Based Commitment

Three distinctive characteristics of calling based commitment:

1. Love for others.
2. Motivated by obedience to God.
3. Causes relationships to thrive.

Calling-Based Commitment happens upfront—before you really know the people in a church very well.

IV. Commitment that is Significant

1. Commitment that is sacrificial (Romans 12:13-16)
2. Commitment to gather together (Hebrews 10:25)
3. Commitment to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24)
4. Commitment to guard one another (Matthew 18:15-18)

V. Commitment that is Formal

“For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside.”
– 1 Corinthians 5:12-13a

The “inside” vs. the “outside” of a church.

Hebrews 13:17 – submitting to leaders; their account for us.

What difference does formal membership make?

1. It serves as an affirmation of informal commitment.
2. It makes informal commitment visible.

VI. Practical Suggestions

1. Join a church.
2. Invest in relationships.
3. Love the whole church.

VII. Conclusion