

Course Outline

Class 1

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

Class 2

Church Membership: The Context for Unity

Class 3

Preaching: The Foundation for Unity

Class 4

Prayer: God's Power Creates Unity

Class 5

Ordinances: Foreshadowing Unity in Heaven

Class 6

Church Governance: Godly Authority Fostering Unity

Class 7

Church Fellowship: Building a Bond of Unity

Class 8

Discontentment with in the Church: A Test of Unity

Class 9

Church Leadership: Submission for the Sake of Unity

Class 10

Church Discipline: Preserving God-Glorifying Unity

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

LIVING AS A CHURCH



Class 13: Evangelism

A Harvest of Unity

I. Introduction

- The church is the grand witness of Christ to a watching world.

John 13:34-35: By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Acts 2:44, 47: All the believers were together and had everything in common . . . And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Purpose of class:

- o To consider the advantages of a congregational witness and how we can apply the distinctive benefits of such a witness to our life as a church.
- o To conclude this core seminar by reflecting on the church and our lives together in the church.

II. The Unique Power of a Corporate Witness

A. *The display of unity among Christians.*

John 17:20-23: My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. *May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

B. *The display of love among Christians.*

John 13:34-35 (see above)

Matthew 5:16: Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven.

1 Pet. 2:12: Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

C. *As a church we help each other witness.*

D. *A corporate witness glorifies God in a unique way.*

E. *Christians work together in the church for global missions.*

III. How can we be a Better Corporate Witness?

A. *Expose non-Christians to our life as a church.*

- Invite non-Christians to church services.
- Think strategically about using the church body to witness.
- Use the various outreach ministries of the church to involve non-Christians with the church.

B. *Talk to non-Christians about our life in the church.*

- Initiate conversations that may lead to a discussion about church and the Gospel.

IV. Closing Reflections on Core Seminar Class

- Through the church, God has chosen to display his manifold wisdom.

Ephesians 3:10: His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made know to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Our goal in this class has been to understand the opportunities and responsibilities that we have as church members to contribute to this awesome goal of displaying God's wisdom and glory through our unity.
- Two significant ways to preserve unity:
 - Preserve the Gospel message.
 - Love each other.

Ephesians 4:1-6: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.