



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 1

The Forgotten Treasure: A Course Introduction

Course Section	Course Introduction
Book Connection	Preface and Section 1 overview
Lesson Aim	See why Christian unity is a biblical inheritance and why the course examines theological conclusions without surrendering truth.

Key Scriptures

Ephesians 4:1-6; John 17:21-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Colossians 1:18.

1. The Forgotten Treasure

- Scripture presents Christ's people as one body under one Head, yet church life often displays deep division.
- Unity is not an optional extra. Jesus prayed for His people to be perfected in unity, and Paul calls believers to preserve the unity of the Spirit.

Notes:

2. The Problem We Must Diagnose

- Doctrines, denominations, and traditions can serve the church, but they can also become barriers when they are given greater loyalty than Christ and His Word.
- The first part of the course diagnoses six areas that contribute to disunity: unbelief, inertia, leadership, biblical handling, priorities, and mindsets.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

When you hear the word unity, do you first think of biblical obedience, compromise, organization, or something else? Why?

3. Unity Without Compromising Truth

- The goal is not organizational uniformity or the abandonment of conviction.
- The course seeks a Christ-centered, Word-based, Spirit-empowered way to hold truth and love together while receiving the whole body of Christ.

Notes:

4. A Three-Part Journey

- Section 1 diagnoses the church's disunity. Section 2 reconstructs how theological conclusions should be formed. Section 3 applies those principles to difficult doctrines and practical unity.

Notes:

5. A Learning Posture

- Students are invited to examine not only other people's theology but their own assumptions, loyalties, attitudes, and methods.
- Humility and love make genuine scriptural discussion possible.

Notes:

Study & Application

Use these after the lesson and related book reading. The complete chapter study-question set remains in the textbook.

1. What makes Christian unity a biblical truth rather than merely a ministry strategy?

2. Where have you seen doctrine or tradition strengthen the church? Where have you seen it become a wall?

3. What would it mean for Christ to be practically honored as Head of the whole church?

4. What attitude do you most need as you begin examining your own theological conclusions?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Christian unity grows as believers submit together to Christ, His Word, and His call to love one another without compromising truth.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 1 online quiz.