



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 2

Our Resistance to Unity

Course Section	Section 1 - A Diagnostic of the Church's Disunity
Book Connection	Chapter 1 - Unbelief: A Resistance to Unity
Lesson Aim	Recognize how unbelief, pride, rivalry, and misplaced loyalties keep Christ's people from living out the unity He has already given them.

Key Scriptures

John 17:21; Acts 2:44-47; Ephesians 4:3, 15; 1 Kings 3:16-28.

1. Jesus Calls His People to Oneness

- Jesus prayed that His followers may all be one, connecting their oneness with the church's witness to the world.
- The early church displayed a strong spirit of togetherness in worship, fellowship, generosity, and shared life.

Notes:

2. Resistance Often Hides Behind Good Intentions

- Pride, rivalry, doctrinal superiority, and denominational loyalty can sustain division even while believers defend biblical truth.
- A constant theological attack mode can cripple fellowship and make disagreement more important than spiritual family ties.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

When doctrinal conflict arises, are you more concerned about proving your side right or preserving the health of Christ's people?

3. Truth Must Be Joined With Love

- Biblical unity does not require pretending differences do not matter.
- Ephesians 4:15 joins truth and love; both are necessary for mature Christian relationships.

Notes:

4. Solomon's Sword and the Value of Wholeness

- The true mother in 1 Kings 3 valued the child's life and wholeness more than winning her claim.

- Our response to doctrinal conflict likewise reveals how deeply we value the wholeness of Christ's body.

Notes:

5. Renewing Our Loyalty

- Our first loyalty is to Christ, not to a denomination, teacher, tradition, or theological camp.
- Humility enables us to receive fellow believers as members of the same body even when real differences remain.

Notes:

Study & Application

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

1. Define spiritual unity in your own words.

2. Read John 17:21. What does Jesus connect with the unity of His people?

3. Why is it difficult to keep truth paired with love and grace?

4. What group of believers are you tempted to treat as "them" rather than "us"? What attitude needs to change?

KEY TAKEAWAY: We do not create Christ's body; we are called to believe its unity, value it, and preserve it in truth and love.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 2 online quiz.