



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 3

Inertia's Paralysis

Course Section	Section 1 - A Diagnostic of the Church's Disunity
Book Connection	Chapter 2 - Inertia: The Church's Poor State of Affairs
Lesson Aim	Identify spiritual and institutional inertia that allows long-standing divisions to continue without serious biblical re-examination.

Key Scriptures

Ephesians 4:4-6; John 17:21-23; Genesis 45:24; 2 Timothy 2:15.

1. What Is Spiritual Inertia?

- Inertia is the tendency to remain where we are because change requires effort, humility, and risk.
- Long-standing church divisions can become normal simply because generations inherit them.

Notes:

2. When Tradition Becomes Self-Protective

- Historical structures and theological systems may preserve important truths, but they can also make inherited divisions feel untouchable.
- The question is not whether tradition is old or new, but whether our present practice faithfully reflects Scripture.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

Which church divisions have you accepted simply because "that is the way it has always been"?

3. The Reformation's Needed Reform

- The Reformation recovered essential truths, yet the church must continue reforming wherever its life does not match God's Word.
- Sola Scriptura should lead us back to Scripture, not merely protect later theological boundaries.

Notes:

4. Purity at a Great Cost

- A desire for purity can become a justification for permanent separation when every disagreement is treated as equally essential.

- The cost is not only institutional fragmentation but weakened love, credibility, and shared witness.

Notes:

5. Moving Again

- Breaking inertia begins with faith that Christ's stated unity is real and worth pursuing.
- The first movement is a willingness to re-examine assumptions and relationships in the light of Scripture.

Notes:

Study & Application

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

1. What is spiritual inertia, and how can it affect a church or denomination?

2. How can a good desire for doctrinal purity contribute to unnecessary division?

3. What does it mean to continue reforming according to Scripture?

4. Name one inherited assumption about other Christians that deserves fresh examination.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Faithful reform does not stop with inherited conclusions; it keeps bringing the church's beliefs and relationships under God's Word.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 3 online quiz.