



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 5

The Biblical Roots of Unity

Course Section	Section 1 - A Diagnostic of the Church's Disunity
Book Connection	Chapter 4 - Biblical: Our Biblical Roots of Unity
Lesson Aim	Recover Scripture's own language and priorities for the one body of Christ.

Key Scriptures

Ephesians 4:1-6; Galatians 3:27-28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; John 17:21.

1. Unity Is Rooted in God's Saving Work

- The New Testament describes one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father.
- Unity is therefore grounded in what God has done, not in human negotiations.

Notes:

2. Unity and Individuality

- Biblical unity does not erase personal gifts, cultures, or callings.
- Like one body with many members, spiritual oneness gives diversity a healthy place and purpose.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

Which biblical description of the church - body, family, flock, temple, bride - most challenges the way you think about other Christians?

3. Biblical Words Before Theological Labels

- Doctrinal summaries can help, but they must remain servants of Scripture.
- When our labels become more controlling than biblical language, they can distort how we see other believers.

Notes:

4. Handling Real Doctrinal Concerns

- The Bible calls us to discern truth while still treating believers with humility, patience, and love.
- Some truths are central to the Gospel; other interpretations require patience and continued study.

Notes:

5. One Body in Practice

- Biblical unity becomes visible in fellowship, mutual honor, shared mission, prayer, and a willingness to learn together.

Notes:

Study & Application

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

1. What are the seven "ones" in Ephesians 4:4-6, and what do they teach about unity?

2. How does the body metaphor preserve both unity and individuality?

3. When can a theological label become more influential than Scripture itself?

4. Give one practical way a local church can display its connection to the larger body of Christ.

KEY TAKEAWAY: The church's unity is not a human invention; it is woven into the biblical description of God's redeemed people.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 5 online quiz.