



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 11

Christ-Focused

Course Section	Section 2 - A Reconstruction of Our Theological Conclusions
Book Connection	Chapter 10 - Christ-Focused
Lesson Aim	Make the person and glory of Jesus Christ the center around which doctrine, identity, and fellowship are ordered.

Key Scriptures

Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11; John 17:22-23; Hebrews 1:1-4.

1. One in Christ

- The church's unity is not built around a theological party but around union with Jesus Christ.
- Christ is the Head who joins believers to Himself and therefore to one another.

Notes:

2. Our Vision of Christ's Glory

- The more clearly believers see Christ's greatness, the less attractive rivalry over lesser matters becomes.
- Doctrine should direct our eyes toward His person and work.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

When people think of your church or theological tradition, is Christ its clearest identity, or is some secondary emphasis more visible?

3. Slippery Paths

- Even valuable teachings can become dangerous when they displace Christ from the center.
- A movement may retain Christian vocabulary while allowing a favored emphasis to become its functional identity.

Notes:

4. Looking Back in History

- Historical controversies show both the necessity of defending truth about Christ and the danger of allowing later disputes to dominate Christian identity.

Notes:

5. A Christ-Focused Fellowship

- Believers can discuss real differences while continually returning to the shared glory, saving work, and lordship of Christ.

Notes:

Study & Application

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

1. How does Christ's headship create a basis for unity?

2. Why does a larger vision of Christ reduce the power of theological rivalry?

3. What is a "slippery path" by which a good doctrine can become too central?

4. How can a group keep Christ visibly at the center of its teaching and relationships?

KEY TAKEAWAY: The closer our attention moves toward Christ's glory, the easier it becomes to place secondary disagreements in their proper place.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 11 online quiz.