



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 15

Our Joint Pursuit

Course Section	Section 2 - A Reconstruction of Our Theological Conclusions
Book Connection	Chapter 13 - The Joint Pursuit
Lesson Aim	Center Christian fellowship on a shared pursuit of Christ, Scripture, and the Gospel rather than competing theological identities.

Key Scriptures

Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Philippians 3:8-14; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.

1. Christ's Outstanding Glory

- Christian unity grows when believers collectively center on and admire Jesus Christ.
- Prominence given to lesser teachings can pull the church into competing centers.

Notes:

2. Christ's Dedication to the Scriptures

- Jesus' life models submission to the Father and to God's Word.
- A joint pursuit follows Christ by returning together to Scripture.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

What are you jointly pursuing with other Christians - Christ Himself, a ministry goal, a theological system, or something else?

3. Confession and Core Faith

- Historic rules of faith, creeds, and confessions can summarize central Christian truths when they serve Scripture rather than replace it.

Notes:

4. Handling Multiple Interpretations

- Multiple interpretations do not force Christians into either relativism or hostility.
- They can identify shared biblical truth, state differences honestly, and keep learning.

Notes:

5. A Working Structure for Unity

- A healthy framework keeps Christ and the Gospel central, Scripture authoritative, conclusions examinable, and love active.

Notes:

Study & Application

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

1. Why does a shared focus on Christ strengthen unity more than a shared secondary emphasis?

2. How can a creed or confession help without becoming a substitute for Scripture?

3. What should Christians do when a passage has several responsible interpretations?

4. Describe the four elements of a healthy working structure for theological fellowship.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Unity is sustained by a shared pursuit: Christ above us, Scripture before us, the Gospel at the center, and love among us.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 15 online quiz.