



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 20

Resetting Our Approach

Course Section	Section 3 - A Unifying Analysis of Our Doctrines
Book Connection	Chapter 18 - Resetting Our Approach (first case studies)
Lesson Aim	Apply three unity-oriented approaches to disputed doctrines and learn to search first for clear biblical and Gospel agreement.

Key Scriptures

Psalm 110:1; Luke 20:41-43; Genesis 2:15-17; Revelation 20:1-15; Matthew 26:26-29.

1. Three Approaches for Unity

- Chapter 18 introduces practical approaches for safeguarding Gospel truth, identifying shared biblical statements, and handling differing interpretations.
- The goal is not to make every view equally valid but to locate agreement before pressing disputed conclusions.

Notes:

2. Use a Gospel Filter

- Jesus' use of Psalm 110 illustrates how a Gospel-centered truth can clarify an interpretive issue.
- The Gospel gives believers a common theological center.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

When studying a disputed doctrine, do you normally begin with your system's conclusion or with the biblical statements everyone can see?

3. The Covenant of Works

- The case study shows how a theological system can steer readers toward preset interpretations of Genesis 2.
- The exercise is to separate the biblical text from the larger system built around it.

Notes:

4. The Millennium

- Revelation 20 has produced several major views.

- Believers can first identify what the passage clearly affirms and then discuss how competing frameworks interpret the details.

Notes:

5. Holy Communion

- Christian traditions differ over the meaning and practice of the Lord's Supper.
- A unity approach begins with the shared biblical event, Christ's command, and the Gospel significance before addressing disputed explanations.

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 the value of finding clear points of agreement before debating interpretations?

2. How can a theological system steer the reading of a passage?

3. What truths about Revelation 20 can Christians affirm before resolving the millennium debate?

4. What shared Gospel truths surround the Lord's Supper even when traditions differ in explanation and practice?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Resetting our approach means beginning with Scripture and Gospel agreement before moving outward to disputed systems and conclusions.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 20 online quiz.