



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 21

More Case Studies

Course Section	Section 3 - A Unifying Analysis of Our Doctrines
Book Connection	Chapter 18 - Resetting Our Approach (continued case studies)
Lesson Aim	Practice the unity method on additional passages where sincere Christians reach different conclusions.

Key Scriptures

Genesis 6:1-11; Philippians 3:9-10; Psalm 17:15; Ephesians 4:5.

1. The Sons of God - Genesis 6

- Genesis 6:1-11 has several major interpretations.
- The exercise is to identify what the passage clearly teaches before requiring agreement on the identity of the "sons of God."

Notes:

2. Finding Our Righteousness

- Philippians 3:9-10 states Gospel truths about righteousness, faith, knowing Christ, and resurrection power.
- These explicit truths provide common ground even when theological systems explain them differently.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

Can you explain a disputed passage by first stating only what both sides can affirm from the text?

3. The Resurrection Promise

- Psalm 17:15 offers a shared biblical hope that can be appreciated before debating every detail of its interpretation or development.

Notes:

4. One Faith and Common Ground

- Ephesians speaks of one faith, giving believers confidence that genuine points of agreement can be found in God's Word.
- Finding agreement is not evasive; it is a disciplined first step toward honest discussion.

Notes:

5. Practice the Method

- State what the text explicitly says. Identify Gospel connections. Note where interpretation begins. Then discuss differences without withdrawing fellowship unnecessarily.

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 clearly taught in Genesis 6 even if the identity of the "sons of God" remains disputed?

2. What explicit Gospel truths appear in Philippians 3:9-10?

3. Why is finding agreement a positive theological skill rather than an avoidance of truth?

4. Choose one disputed passage and separate explicit statements from interpretive conclusions.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Theological maturity includes the ability to identify real agreement, locate the precise disagreement, and keep learning together.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 21 online quiz.