

# Projecting and Protecting the Unity of the Church

Rooted in 1 Peter 1:22–23, the course explores the theological foundation, spiritual vitality, and practical expressions of church unity.

Each session engages Scripture to address critical aspects of Christian community: the divine origin of unity, the responsibilities of fellowship, the role of every believer in ministry, and the shared calling to mission and mutual care.

**Core Text:** 1 Peter 1:22–23

**Course Content:** <https://tinyurl.com/sa846z8m>

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## Week 1: The Call to Unity

**Text:** 1 Peter 1:22–23

**Objective:** Explore unity as a divine mandate flowing from our spiritual rebirth.

**Key Themes:** Obedience, purification, sincere love.

**Discussion:**

- What does it mean to "purify your soul"?
- How is love the fruit of obeying the truth?

**Application:** Cultivate earnest love as a sign of unity.

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## Week 2: The Source of Unity

**Text:** John 17:20–23

**Objective:** Understand unity as rooted in the Trinity and Christ's prayer.

**Key Themes:** Unity as divine witness.

**Discussion:**

- How is Christian unity missional?

- What does oneness in the Trinity teach us?

**Application:** Reflect on how your local church reflects divine unity.

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## Week 3: Threats to Unity

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 1:10–17

**Objective:** Recognize and resist division in the body.

**Key Themes:** Factions, pride, misplaced loyalty.

**Discussion:**

- What are the modern equivalents of "I follow Paul"?
- How do theological camps help or hurt unity?

**Application:** Practice humility in theological disagreements.

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## Week 4: Fellowship as Covenant

**Text:** Acts 2:42–47

**Objective:** Fellowship is commitment, not convenience.

**Key Themes:** Shared life, devotion, joy.

**Discussion:**

- How did the early church live out unity?
- How can we reclaim covenant fellowship today?

**Application:** Commit to intentional community rhythms.

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## Week 5: Forgiveness and Restoration

**Text:** Matthew 18:15–20

**Objective:** Biblical conflict resolution strengthens unity.

**Key Themes:** Reconciliation, peacemaking.

**Discussion:**

- Why does Jesus place such emphasis on private resolution?
- What is the role of the church in accountability?

**Application:** Practice direct and grace-filled confrontation.

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## Week 6: Every Member a Minister

**Text:** Ephesians 4:11–16

**Objective:** Ministry is the shared responsibility of all.

**Key Themes:** Growth, maturity, mutual edification.

**Discussion:**

- What gifts are present in your church?
- How can they be better mobilized?

**Application:** Take ownership of your ministry contribution.

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## Week 7: Servant Leadership

**Text:** Mark 10:42–45

**Objective:** Model leadership after Christ's humility.

**Key Themes:** Power inverted, greatness redefined.

**Discussion:**

- How does Jesus redefine leadership?
- How can leaders guard against control and pride?

**Application:** Serve others in ways that go unseen.

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## Week 8: Empowering Others

**Text:** 2 Timothy 2:1–2

**Objective:** Empowerment builds generational unity.

**Key Themes:** Faithful transmission, discipleship.

**Discussion:**

- Who has invested in your faith?
- Who are you investing in?

**Application:** Identify and mentor a younger believer.

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## Week 9: Shared Mission

**Text:** Matthew 28:18–20

**Objective:** The Great Commission unites us in purpose.

**Key Themes:** Global vision, local action.

**Discussion:**

- How does mission unify the church?
- Where are you currently on mission?

**Application:** Partner with others in outreach.

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## Week 10: Stewarding the Body

**Text:** Romans 12:3–8

**Objective:** Honor each member's contribution.

**Key Themes:** Gifts, humility, interdependence.

**Discussion:**

- How do we balance humility and calling?
- What causes "gift envy" in the church?

**Application:** Affirm someone else's gift this week.

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## Week 11: Bearing One Another's Burdens

**Text:** Galatians 6:1–5

**Objective:** Unity thrives where empathy is practiced.

**Key Themes:** Responsibility, compassion, restoration.

**Discussion:**

- What keeps us from helping others spiritually?
- How can we make space for burden-bearing?

**Application:** Intentionally support a struggling believer.

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## Week 12: Projecting and Protecting Unity

**Text:** Colossians 3:12–17

**Objective:** Clothe the church in love.

**Key Themes:** Forgiveness, peace, gratitude.

**Discussion:**

- What are the garments of unity?
- How does the Word shape communal identity?

**Application:** Create a personal commitment plan to protect unity.