

SERMON SERIES FROM HIGH POINT CHURCH

SUSTAINING

UNITY

STICKING TOGETHER
IN FACTIOUS TIMES

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The vision and virtues of unity are the vision and virtues of human community.

To sustain unity we need 3 things:

- **Faith in and a fear of the Lord Jesus**
- **A vision of unity rooted in Jesus**
- **The virtues of social fellowship and love**





Unity is a vision
(rather than a virtue)

Scriptural vision for unity: primacy of the church.

Philippians 4:2

Romans 12:16

2 Corinthians 13:11

1 Corinthians 1:10

Philippians 1:27 – 28

Ephesians 4:1 – 6

John 13:34 – 35

John 17:20 – 23

Etc...



Why is unity so important?

- It's God's will
- It's part of God's testimony through us to the world
- It's in the nature of our identity
- It's a property of redemption and shalom
- It's an environment of transformation



In our series will look at what it takes to
sustain unity,
robust and meaningful **social fellowship, and solidarity.**

**Purity is the limiting principle of
unity. Unity is the directing
principle of purity.**

There is no conflict between grace and truth.

**1. Purity is the limiting principle
for unity.**

Who is approved: Jesus with the disciples

- Matthew 12:28 – 30
- Mark 9:38 – 41



Doctrinal purity vs. purity of conscience

- Galatians 1:8 – 9 (doctrinal purity is a must)
- Romans 14:1 – 5 (respecting conscience in disputation is a must)



Being missional

- 1 Corinthians 9:19 – 23 (be all things to all people)
- 2 Corinthians 6:17 (come out from among them and be separate)



**2. Unity is the directing principle
for purity.**

Grace and truth are unified

John 1:14 – 17 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



Love and truth are unified

2 John 1:1 – 6 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.



2 John 1:1 – 6 continued: And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.



Jesus is “full” of both grace and truth:

- Redemption is the fruit of grace and truth together.
- God is a person who is himself the embodiment of the truth.
- To be reconciled to him is a gracious act between persons (forgiveness), as well as a reuniting with the truth (what God is).
- Salvation is to be reunited with grace and truth, to the one that is full of grace and truth.



Controversial example

Discipline: Expel the immoral brother vs. comfort him and receive him back.

- **1 Corinthians 5:4 – 5**
- **2 Corinthians 2:4 – 8**



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