

SERMON SERIES FROM HIGH POINT CHURCH

SUSTAINING

UNITY

STICKING TOGETHER
IN FACTIOUS TIMES

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Scripture Reading

Titus 3:1 – 11





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**Building takes so much more
than destruction**

time, passion, thought, effort..



To pursue unity

we have to

kill the vices of division

in ourselves.

1. God is clear about the vices of division

4 simple study procedures

- 1. Unity is fused with maturity**
- 2. Reverse the virtues of unity**
- 3. Observe explicit vices of division**
- 4. Biblical occasions of division**



4 simple study procedures

1. Unity is fused with maturity

Ephesians 4:12 – 13

...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ...



4 simple study procedures

1. Unity is fused with maturity

**Proverbs 17:19a "He who loves
a quarrel loves sin..."**



4 simple study procedures

2. Reverse the virtues of unity

Ephesians 4:2 – 3 Be completely **humble** and **gentle**; be **patient, bearing with** one another in love. **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.



4 simple study procedures

3. Observe explicit vices of division

Galatians 5:24 – 26

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become **conceited, provoking** and **envying** each other.



4 simple study procedures

4. Biblical occasions of division

Positive examples: Acts 15, Gal. 2, 2 Cor. 12

Negative examples: 1 Tim. 6:3 – 5, 2 Tim. 3:1 – 9



4 simple study procedures

4. Biblical occasions of division

Ungodly Influencers:

Negative examples: 1 Tim. 6:3 – 5, 2 Tim. 3:1 – 9



2. We have to kill these vices *in ourselves*

Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



Acknowledging isn't recognizing.

We acknowledge vices, but don't recognize ourselves practicing them.

3 problems with evasion:

- 1. We identify them in others but not ourselves.**
- 2. We follow influencers we should reject.**
- 3. We have ignorant, all or nothing views of complex human relations and institutions.**



3. The vices of division will only die in the death of Christ.

**The gospel has to change you at the
very place you live and die.**

The gospel isn't deep enough

**not generic religiosity, but
psychologically literally.**

Luke 9:22 – 26

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me.



24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.



The Core: Nature and flesh

Attachment

Orientation/control

Good & pleasure / bad & pain

Self-worth/worthwhile development



The Core: Nature and flesh

Attachment

Orientation/control

Good & pleasure / bad & pain

Self-worth/worthwhile development

To feel you are getting these is "life" and to feel denied, is "death" on a primal level.



The Core: Nature and flesh

Attachment

Orientation/control

"Flow"

Worth/development

Union/fellowship

Truth/faithfulness

Joy/integrity

Justification/Sanctification



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