

# Devoted to Unity

Titus 3:9-15

November 21, 2021 | Jeremy Chasteen, Lead Pastor for Strategy

## Jesus is passionate about unity

John 17:22-23 | “22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

\*Except where noted, all Scripture references are in the English Standard Version (ESV).

## Paul is passionate about unity

Philippians 1:27 | “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,”

1 Corinthians 1:10 | “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

## **BIG IDEA: Our unity is a display of grace in a chaotic world.**

### **I. Division destroys unity (vv. 9-11)**

#### A. Avoid division

Titus 3:9 | “But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.”

Galatians 5:19-21 “19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

#### B. Confront division

Titus 3:10a | “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice,”

## 1. Confront and restore

Titus 3:10a | “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice,”

Matthew 18:15-17a | “15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.”

Galatians 6:1 | “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

## 2. Confront and remove

Titus 3:10b-11 | “...have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.”

Matthew 18:17 | “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

## II. Unity displays grace (vv. 12-15)

Titus 3:12-15 | “12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.”

### Three ways unity displays grace

A. Partnership

B. Fellowship

“The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer. It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

### C. Generosity

John 13:35 | “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

## **BENEDICTION**

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