

# NETCAST SERMON NOTES

**Series:** This Isn't Normal

**Date:** May 24th, 2026

**Title:** The Antidote

**Speaker:** Matt Chewning

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**Key Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-4 (with Philippians 1:27-30)

**The Big Idea:** The church is supposed to be a place of safety in the middle of external opposition, not a secondary battlefield of internal division.

## **The Danger of Internal Division**

While external battles are hard enough, conflict inside the church hits closer to the heart because of our expectation of unity and shared values. Disunity inside the church weakens our ability to endure pressure outside of it, forcing us to fight alone.

## **The Anatomy of Unity**

Paul calls us to love one another like Christ loves us by highlighting six key elements:

- Any: Not full, but at least a little.
- Encouragement: Coming to someone's aid and being by their side.
- Love (Agape): Unconditional commitment to seek the good of another at great cost.
- Participation: Fellowship and communion.
- Affection: A deep, gut-level feeling.
- Sympathy: Compassion and mercy.

**The Orchestra Analogy:** Full accord means the church is like an orchestra where different people play different notes that complement one another. There is no competition; everyone understands their part and plays it perfectly.

## **The Killers of Unity**

- Selfish Ambition: A self-seeking attitude tied to rivalry and striving for personal success at the expense of others.
- Conceit: "Empty glory" or chasing an illusion of self-importance and praise that cannot fill you.

## **Counting Others More Significant**

True humility is choosing appropriate ambition through practical actions:

- Letting someone else get the credit instead of needing recognition.
- Listening fully instead of waiting for your turn to talk.
- Serving your spouse when you're tired instead of demanding comfort.
- Celebrating a friend's success without making it about yourself.

**Call to Action:** Where are you tempted to fight for personal control or empty glory this week instead of serving those around you?