

A composite image showing several hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark brown) reaching towards the center from the edges of the frame. The hands are arranged in a circular pattern, with fingers slightly curled as if about to clasp or support something in the middle. The background is a solid, bright white. In the center of this circle, the word "UNITY" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**UNITY**

# Church Unity Preserves Jesus' Work

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*“Therefore, walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”  
(Ephesians 4:1)*

## The calling

- Jesus unites us to God (2:1-10)
- Jesus unites us with one another (2:11-22)

# Church Unity Preserves Jesus' Work

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## Philippians 1:27

*“...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel,”*

## Unity is

- Solidarity – “we” are an “us.”
- Common Purpose – moving in concert toward a shared goal.

# Church Unity Requires Jesus' Character

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*“with all humility and gentleness with patience... eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit” (Ephesians 4:2-3)*

## Romans 15:2-3

- Jesus sought the good of sinners rather than his own good
- It cost him dearly to build his church
- It costs us to maintain it

# Church Unity Accomplishes Jesus' Mission

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*Ephesians 4:4-6*

Church unity helps people:

- Find Jesus as savior and Lord (John 17:20-23)
- Follow Jesus into maturity (Ephesians 4:13)

***If we care about following Jesus, we'll care about church unity.***

# **A Current Case for Churches**

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Oregon's mask mandate posed the question:  
how do we respond as a church?

## **1 Peter 2:13-15**

The default New Testament position is to obey  
secular governing authorities.

# A Current Case for Churches

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State authority over the church is not absolute. We might consider disregarding a law/order if:

- It violates scripture
- It meaningfully changes the content of our worship
- It is immoral
- It unjustly singles out churches/religion
- Compliance is unreasonable/unrealistic

# A Current Case for Churches

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The mandate requires:

- Posted signs
- Modeling from leaders & volunteers
- **No enforcement**

Confusing? We tend to agree...



# A Current Case for Churches

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Harvest's exhortation:

- Consider how your actions and attitudes will impact those around you. Be third.  
1 Corinthians 10:24
- Extend grace. Believe the best. Don't judge.  
Romans 14:4
- Spend yourself for unity in your church.  
Ephesians 4:3

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