



I Am A Church Member

Chapter 2:
**I Will Be A Unifying Church
Member**

Goal

At the end of the class, participants will understand that:

- Church membership is more than getting your name on a roll. It's different from the perks and privileges you have when you are in a social club.
- Church membership is about sacrificing, giving and forgiving.

A Unifying Church Member

- God desires for Christians to get along.

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

- The world will know if we are *Christians* or not by the way we who are believers act toward one another. (pg. 21)

Ways the World Will Know That We Are Christians



- The way Christians behave at a church *business meeting*.
- Hearing Christians *gossip* about each other.
- The letters and e-mails Christians send to their Pastors and leaders.

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God Expects

- When you become a Christian, **God** expects you to be a part of His church.
- **He** demands that you become a ***unifying*** presence there. Pg. 22



Unity

- **Unity** is *important*.
- **Unity** is *critical*.
- When the church members don't work together, the church is **weaker** as a whole.
- **Unity** is vital to the health of a church.
- **Every** church member must contribute to the unity of the church.

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Unity is Critical to the Church

Paul urged members

“to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds.”

Ephesians 4:1-2

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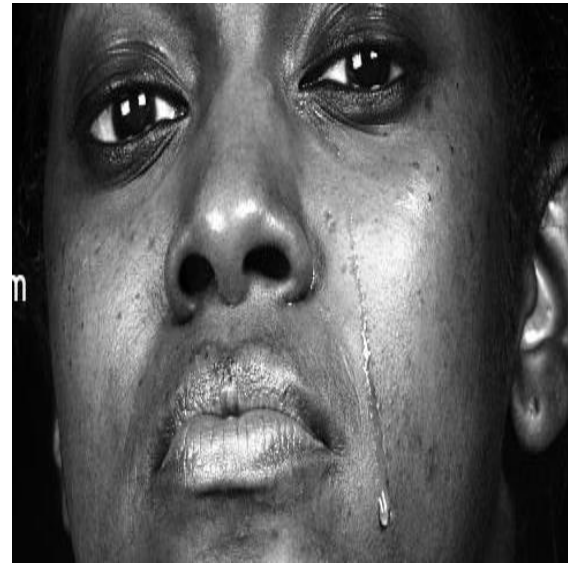
Maintaining Unity

- **You** have a responsibility as a church member. You are a source of **unity**.
- **You** are never to be a **divisive force**.
- **You** are to **love** your fellow church members **unconditionally**.
- **You** must be willing to **sacrifice** your own preferences to keep unity in your church.
- When we seek **unity**, we demonstrate **love**. (pg. 23-24)

Gossip

- **Gossip** is bad.
- **Gossip** is destructive in the church.
- **Gossip** tears apart the unity and renders a church powerless.

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How to Respond to Gossip

- **Don't** be a source of gossip. If you have any doubts whether something is gossip or not, *don't mention it.* **Keep your tongue under control.**
- If someone in the church begins to share **gossip** with you, gently rebuke him or her. *(Kindly say that you would rather not hear any gossip and you would hope it wouldn't continue to spread.)*
(pg. 25-26)

Forgiveness and Unity

Jesus said:

“For if you forgive people their wrong doing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don’t forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrong doing.”

(Matthew 6:14-15)

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Unity and Forgiveness

- **Unity** in the church will not happen if members have ***unforgiving*** hearts.
- Each local church is made up of *imperfect* members and *imperfect* pastors. *We will make mistakes.*
- **Church unity** is torn apart when members refuse to *forgive*, when any member is too *prideful* to grant forgiveness.

Remember

- **Christ** loved us so much that He died on a cross to **forgive** us. And now, as **He** has *forgiven* us, so we must *forgive* others.
- It is essential to the **unity** of your church.

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