1. Cultivate unity in diversity

    - Grow in understanding your identity in Christ (Eph. 4:1-4).

    - Grow in understanding Christ's love for you (Eph. 3:14-19)

VI. Conclusion

Course Schedule
Class 1: Diversity? Unity? For God's Sake!
Class 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity
Class 3: The Image of God
Class 4: God's Purposes for Similarity in the Church
Class 5: Cultural Critique
Class 6: Loving the Other
Class 7: Working through Disunity

If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at jamie.dunlop@capbap.org or Isaac Adams at isaacnadams@gmail.com.

Core Seminar
Unity and Diversity in the Local Church
Class 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity

I. Introduction

II. Unity in Diversity is God's Work

Ephesians 2:11-3:21

- Grammar hunt!!!

- Unity in diversity is something God *has* done.

- What matters is what God has done—not what we build.

- How?

    - Gospel identity

    - Gospel love

III. How Does God-Built Unity Change Us?

Hope (Eph. 3:13).

IV. When God-Built Unity and Diversity Go Missing

What we lose:

1. Confirmation of the Gospel

   Ephesians 3:10 – love between Jew and Gentile shows off God's wisdom.

   The pattern of signs and wonders in Acts.

2. Preservation of the Gospel

   Christ's body not just defined by different gifts (Romans 12) but different backgrounds (Ephesians 4)

   Ephesians 4:13—we seek unity and maturity
   Ephesians 4:14—so that our doctrine will be stable
   Ephesians 4:15—as each part of the body does its work

   "Rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, *when each part is working properly*, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."
   - Ephesians 4:15-16

   Relationships based on nothing but Christ can actually be *more* close and grounded than those where we share a lot in common.

Confirmation + Preservation = Great Commission.

V. What's Our Role?

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:3

The paradox of the Christian life: working *and* resting.

Examples: 1 Cor. 3:6, 1 Thes. 4:3

Why? If God does the work, it glorifies his power. If he does the work through our work, our faith also glorifies his goodness.

2. We need to stop getting in the way

   Extreme example: homogeneous growth principle

   Lots of other examples
   - Ministry by similarity
   - Picking church/small group based on similarity