

How do we maintain unity within the church with so many competing influences present? In the first week of our series on Jude, we spent time addressing the attitudes that cause disunity and pollution of the truth. As we finish our journey through Jude, we see the keys to building each other up and developing unity within the church. Our goal is to be a church unified around the truth and mercifully building each other up in the love of God.

What Do You Think?

- How would you define unity and how important is it in different environments?
 - What are the effects of disunity? Give examples.
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“These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 1:16-17 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- **Read Jude 1:16-19.** Which attitudes does Jude call out here? What other attitudes can you think of that cause disunity? What are the opposites of these mindsets?
 - **Read Jude 1:20.** Jude gives two actions on the road to unity: building yourself up in the faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. How do we do both of these things and why do they help maintain unity?
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“Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” Jude 1:21 (ESV)

- **Read Jude 1:21.** What does “keeping yourselves in the love of God” mean? What are some of the everyday challenges to actually doing it?

- **Read Jude 1:22-23.** This passage gives us three kinds of people with which they are to “contend for the faith.” What are these three groups and how are they to interact?

What Will You Do?

- Is there someone in your life that fits into one of the groups discussed in the previous question? How will you choose to interact with them and what do you hope the result will be?
- Is there an issue or belief that you do not feel unified on with the group or church? What can you do to create or maintain the unity of believers?
- We want our church and group to be unified. Jude finishes by saying, *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:24-25 (ESV)* Since Jesus is the only one who can lead us to true unity, spend time praying together asking Him for that specifically.