

For Further Study: Unity

A. Jesus clearly desires our unity.

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:20–24

B. Paul was committed to unity.

Titus 2:3–5 is a clear call to gospel-driven, gender-specific discipleship. It is not simply a suggestion to match older women and younger women. This gospel imperative is one part of covenant life. It is a part of the strategy for a local church to disciple God's people.

Titus 2 gives legitimacy and limitations to a women's ministry. There is an unmistakable mandate for women to train women, but the extent of this training is somewhat limited. There are many times and places in church life where men and women study and serve side by side, but a primary task of the women's ministry is to train women in the biblical principles and practices of womanhood. This does not mean that biblical womanhood is the only thing that women study, but it does mean that there should be a resolute commitment to weave these principles throughout the entire women's ministry.

Women's Ministry in the Local Church, p. 127

1. True community is an overflow response of good theology.
 - a. Ultimately, doctrine, not personalities or preferences, will determine the depth of unity.
 - b. Biblical unity transcends personalities, situations or styles.

2. Our level of unity reveals our underlying purpose.
 - a. When my reputation is my purpose:
 - i. Personalities, styles, etc. tend to cause division.
 - ii. Individualism and autonomy become characteristics of our ministry.
 - b. When God's glory is our purpose:
 - i. We acknowledge that God places us in community with each other when he adopts us into his family.
 - ii. We see the church as a community of grace.
 - iii. We recognize that maintaining unity is a calling from God.

3. Unity begins with your leadership team.
 - a. It begins with unified commitment to
 - i. God,
 - ii. His Word,
 - iii. His church,
 - iv. and each other.
 - b. Based on that commitment, you can develop life-giving strategies for ministry.