



# THE CHURCH: UNITY TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Session 1 • Living As A Church



# WHY THIS CLASS?

1. Because the church is important to God
2. Because people have different opinions on the church





# THREE SIMPLE FACTS

1. God has called Christians to be with him forever, but for a time, he's left us in this world, gathered into local churches.
2. He has chosen to use our life together in churches as a primary method of displaying his glory.
3. We are sinners.





# SINNERS UNIFIED?

- How is it that we as sinners can gather together as a local church where unity abounds—and not a forced unity that denies differences, overlooks difficulty, or compromises the message of the gospel, but a real unity acts as a compelling testimony to the power of the gospel?
- How is it that as sinners, we can respond to sin in our midst without descending to gossip and slander?

# SINNERS UNIFIED?

- How can we trust our leaders but still recognize that they are sinners too?
- How can we love people who make us feel uncomfortable because they're so different from us?
- How can we critique an imperfect church without grumbling?



A black and white photograph of a wooden cross against a cloudy sky. The cross is made of two dark wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, intersecting. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the lighting suggests a bright day. The cross is positioned on the left side of the image, with its vertical beam extending towards the top and its horizontal beam extending towards the right.

# UNIFIED IN CHRIST

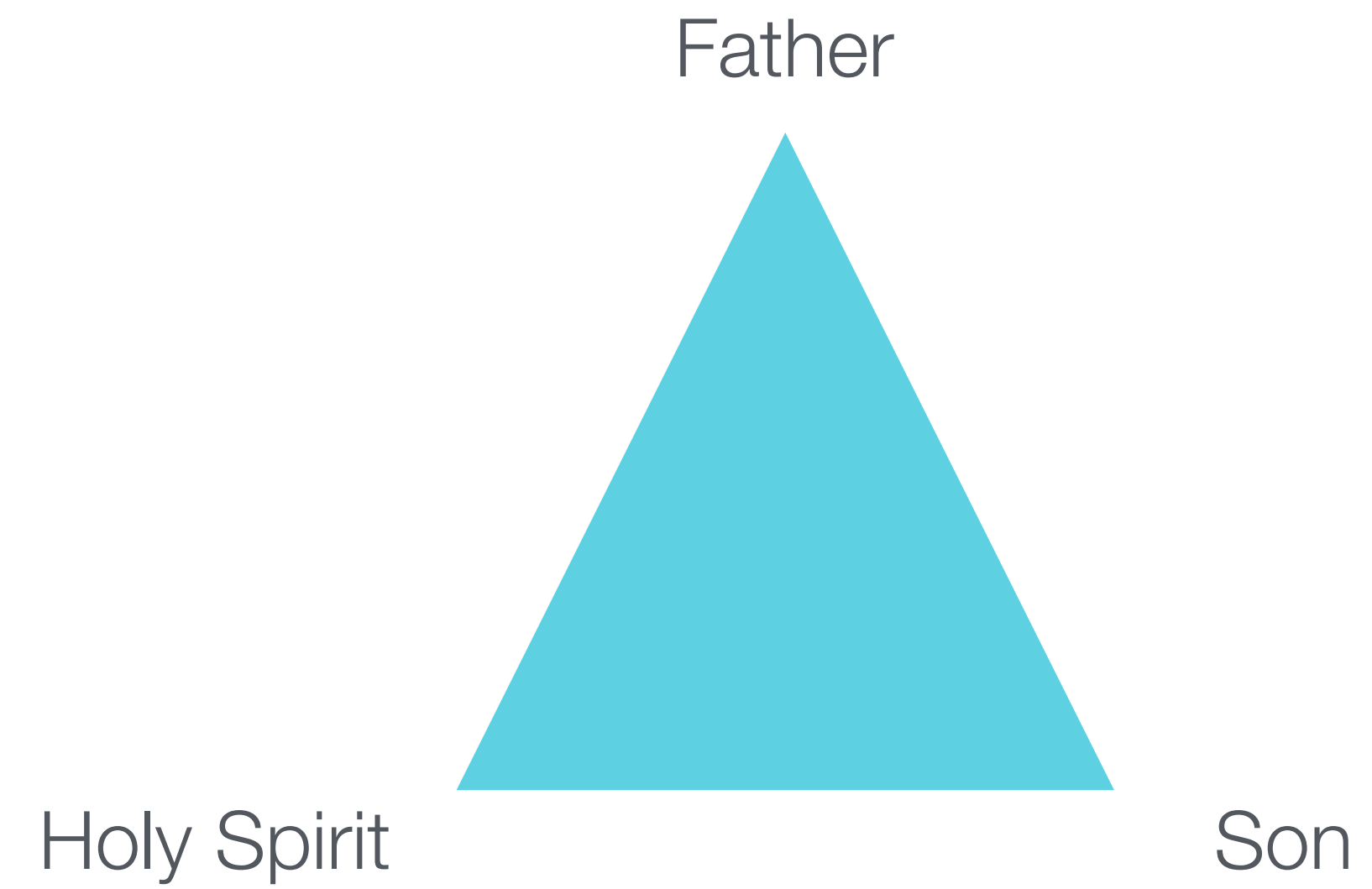
## Ephesians

- 2:1–10 – Shared Salvation
- 2:11–22 – Shared Blessings
- 3:1–6 – Shared Status
- 3:7–21 – Shared Display
- 4:1–16 – Shared Task

# THE TRINITY



Unity  
of Essence



Diversity  
of Person  
& Role

# MISGUIDED UNITY

- Organizational Unity
- Unity in Similarity
- Diversity only



# TRUE UNITY

- Action: Love for brothers and sisters in Christ across social boundaries
- Purpose: The glory of God in the vindication of his gospel
- Source: The love of Christ
- Context: The local church



# TRUE DIVERSITY

- The gospel enables us to have unity in the following areas where the world creates division.
  1. Boundaries of ethnicity
  2. Boundaries of age
  3. Boundaries of economics
  4. Boundaries of politics
  5. Boundaries of personality
  6. Boundaries of cultural background



# WHAT'S AT STAKE?

1. We Compromise  
Evangelism
2. We Compromise  
Discipleship





# CULTIVATE UNITY IN DIVERSITY

1. Pray for Unity.
2. Recognize the Invisibility of Your Culture
3. Embrace Those Who Are Different from You
4. Remember They are Blood-bought Brothers and Sisters
5. Make Sacrifices for the Sake of Unity



