



UNITY OF THE CHURCH

PART II

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Providence Baptist Church
Integrated Sunday School
July 2019

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. – Ephesians 4:1-3

Last Week...

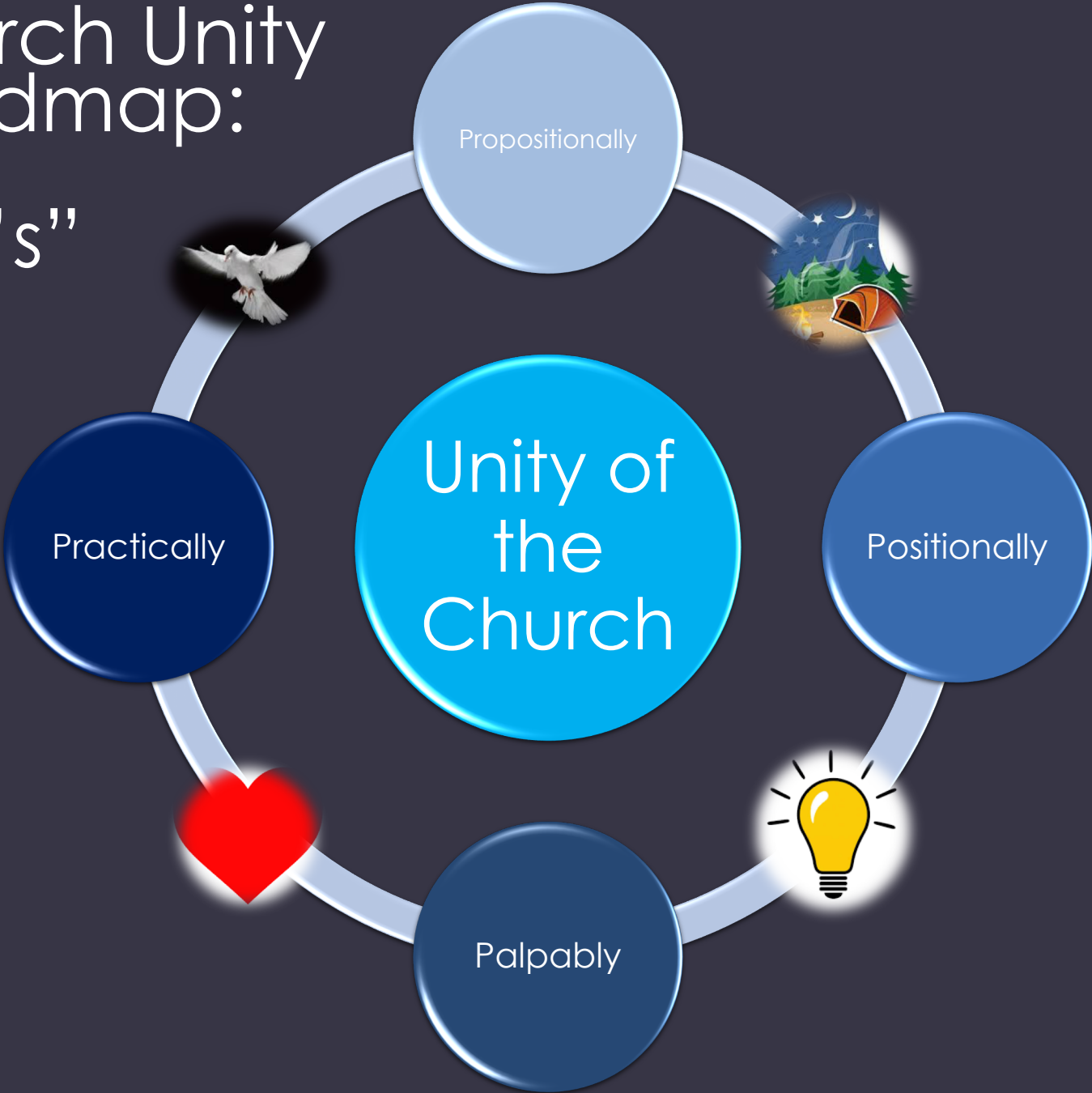
- The Church universal is called to be “Perfectly one” (Jn. 17:23) through sanctification in the truth (Word of God Jn. 17:14-19)
- Unity is grounded in a shared fellowship with the Eternal Godhead (v. Jn 17:21)
- The two aims of the Church’s unity is to
 - Manifest Christ
 - Glorify Christ

Last Week...

- The Church is united in Christ and thus unity is independent of our own preferences
- The Unity of the Spirit is *given*
- The Unity in the Spirit is not generated or developed, but *maintained* (Eph. 4:3)

Church Unity Roadmap:

“4 P’s”





PALPABLY

How the Church's unity is
manifest to the world

Love One Another Earnestly

1st Peter 4:7-11

- **Love** one another earnestly
- **Show hospitality** to one another
- **Serve** one another
- **Why? That God may be glorified in Christ Jesus**
 - (v. 11)

“Lights in the World”



Philippians 2:1-15

- Philippians 1:27 – the grounding for chapter 2
- Christ = our example
- Humility = our attitude
- Obedience = our aim
- Lights in the world = our purpose



PRACTICALLY

How then shall we live?

How Should We Treat Each Other?

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all **humility** and gentleness, with **patience**, bearing with one another in **love**, eager to **maintain** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**.”

Ephesians 4:1-3

What Causes Divisions?

Thom Rainer

- Gossip (Rom 1:29)
- Secrecy
- Failure to confront bullies
- A lack of prayer
- Fear of confrontation
- Hypercriticalness

What Causes Divisions?

Thom Rainer

- Low expectations
- No Church Discipline
- Negativity
 - (known more for what we are against than what we are for)
- Fear of losing members
- Failure to evangelize

What Causes Divisions?

Thom Rainer

- Power groups/Factions
 - Remaining silent
- 

Group Discussion

Facilitators:

- Youth – Brian Milby
- Greg Barnett
- Mike Watson
- Randy Cox
- Dennon Clardy
- Brian Forroux

Questions for Discussion (1)

- How are we to discern between genuine “gossip” and what is general discussion about members of the church? (read Romans 1:29 and concentrate on the impact of the last 3 words!)
- How are you *loving, serving, and showing hospitality* to your brothers and sisters at PBC? How can you do better? Why should you?
- What are some areas in the church where secrecy is necessary? What are some areas where we (personally and as a church) could be more transparent?
- Discuss the indispensable role of prayer in the church and what is necessary for PBC to be faithful?
- What are some areas of the church that we tend to evaluate too critically?
- Does love for your brothers and sisters characterize your life? Why or why not? (1st John 3:11-24)

Questions for Discussion (2)

- This year thousands of Christian congregations in America will split. Why will PBC, if the Lord wills it, remain united?
- One of the most common reasons for church division is power hungry people of influence. How should PBC protect its members and leadership from this possibility?
- Why must we be willing to confront each other in love? Does confrontation contribute or detract from unity? Why or why not?
- What do you think Rainer means by “negativity” as contributing to disunity in the church?
- How can the evangelism of PBC lead to more unity?