

July 20, 2025
Sermon Notes: Core 3.0

1. Introduction: The Church as Family on Mission

- Tab Church is not just a gathering, but a family unified by mission.
- People are the mission, not just part of it.
- Emphasis on belonging and the power of shared values.
- Unity is essential in fulfilling the mission.

2. Jesus' Heart for Unity (John 17:20–23)

- Jesus prays for oneness among His followers.
- Unity reflects the relationship between the Father and Son.
- It is through unity that the world sees the truth of the gospel.
- Division among believers undermines the gospel's power.

3. Gospel Tension: Unity and Conviction

- The challenge: balancing biblical convictions and cultural complexity.
- Unity doesn't mean compromising holiness, but pursuing Christ together.
- Acts 15 provides a model for addressing these tensions.

4. God Cleared the Path Through Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- Sin was the immovable barrier between humanity and God.
- Jesus lived a perfect life and bore our sins on the cross.
- The gospel is God doing for us what we could never do ourselves.
- Salvation comes through grace alone, nothing added.

5. The Antioch Tension: Gentiles and Jews Clash

- Gentiles come from indulgent, polytheistic backgrounds.
- Jewish believers emphasize law, purity, and tradition.
- Worship styles and cultural expectations caused friction.
- Some Jews insisted circumcision was required for salvation (Acts 15:1).

6. Acts 15: The Jerusalem Council's Response

- Peter: God gave Gentiles the Holy Spirit by *faith*, not works (Acts 15:7–9).
- Paul & Barnabas testified to God's work among Gentiles.
- James confirms through Scripture that Gentiles are part of God's plan (Acts 15:13–18).
- Conclusion: Do not make it difficult for those turning to God (Acts 15:19–20).

7. The Gospel Is Sufficient: Jesus + Nothing = Everything

- Legalism adds unnecessary burdens.
- Licentiousness abuses grace and can cause others to stumble.
- The gospel calls us to freedom *and* responsibility.
- Believers must help, not hinder, others from seeing Jesus.

8. Why We Clear the Path to Jesus

- Romans 1:16 – The gospel is the power of God for salvation.
- We don't change hearts, Jesus does.
- Our role is to remove barriers, not create them.
- A diverse church can model gospel-centered unity.

9. Living with Gospel Intentionality

- There are no prerequisites to follow Jesus.
- But once we follow Him, we must live in a way that reflects His grace.
- Idolatry, immorality, and indulgence can also block the path.
- We are free *to serve*, not free *to stumble*.

10. Final Challenge: Reflect, Repent, Respond

- Are we pointing people *to* Jesus or *away* from Him?
- Communion is a time to examine our hearts.
- Confess sin, reaffirm faith in the gospel, and commit to clearing the path.
- Jesus *is* the gospel; He has already made a way.