



# I AM THE CHURCH

WEEK 3: I WILL BE  
A UNIFYING  
MEMBER

# COMMUNITY LEARNING COVENANT



1. Use chat for questions and comments.



## 2. Be Respectful

- All questions and comments should acknowledge the sacred value of people. For example, “Is my comment or question a barrier or bridge to deeper learning?”
- Virtual chat is a community, not a monologue.

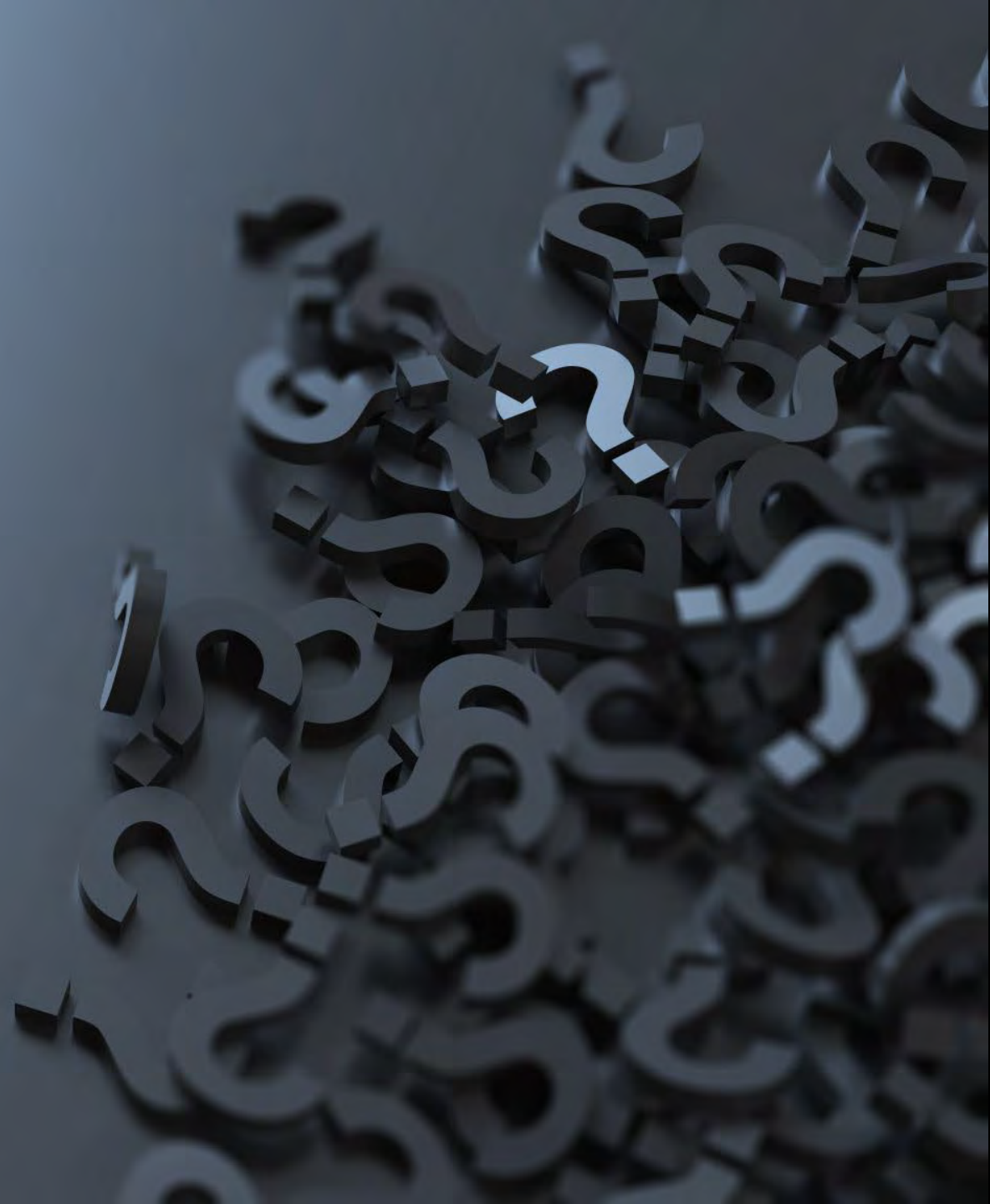


3. When possible, avoid generalizations by pointing out specific passages or pages in the book.

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4. If we do not get to your questions/comments; or want the question/comment to remain confidential, etc., please email questions/comments to [pastor@lhmbc.net](mailto:pastor@lhmbc.net). You can expect that we will do some level of follow-up.



5. Invite  
friends and  
family.

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# Where we left off last week...

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Problematic Church Membership Models



Week 2 Truth Nugget



5 Keys To Being a Functioning Church Member



# Problematic Models of Church Membership

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Membership is  
about PERKS.

Membership is  
about  
PRIVILEGES.

Membership is  
about OTHERS  
SERVING ME.

Membership is  
about MY  
PREFERENCES  
TAKING  
PRECEDENT.

Membership is  
about  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFORMING  
TO MY DESIRES.

Membership is  
about  
LONGEVITY  
DETERMINING  
VALUE.

# WEEK 2 TRUTH NUGGET

Church membership will be a problem whenever it is focused on receiving instead of giving, being served instead of serving, rights without responsibilities, and entitlement without sacrifices.

# 5 KEYS TO BEING A FUNCTIONING CHURCH MEMBER...

1. A Functioning Member  
Knows that We Are All  
Necessary Parts of the Whole –  
1 Corinthians 12:27-28

2. A Functioning Member  
Knows Our Differences Are  
Strengths Not Liabilities – 1  
Corinthians 12:14-18

3. A Functioning Member Gives  
Their Best Regularly – 1  
Corinthians 12:26

5 KEYS TO BEING  
A FUNCTIONING  
CHURCH  
MEMBER...

4. A Functioning Member  
Knows, Trusts, And  
Operates from Their Own  
Gifts –

1 Corinthians 12:27

5. A Functioning Member  
Respects, Values, and  
Honors the Gifts of  
Others –

1 Corinthians 12:24b-25



LET'S TALK ABOUT UNITY...

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When you read this what comes to your mind?

<sup>34</sup> "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

# LOVE AS AFFECTION & LOVE AS ACTION

## LOVE AS AFFECTION

- Feeling
- Sentiment
- Exciting
- Senses
- Noun

## LOVE AS ACTION

- Response
  - Verb
  - “Does Something”
  - Exemplified in the Incarnation/Death/Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8)
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# Today's Truth Nugget #1

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God's desire is for Christians to get along. The validity of the Christian faith before the world rests in our ability to love one another—both inside and outside of the Church.



Adam and The Terrible Church  
Meeting

ADAM'S QUESTION: "IF THAT'S THE WAY THE  
PEOPLE ACT IN THERE, WHY IN THE WORLD  
WOULD I NEED TO GO THERE?"





1. UNITY is  
NOT  
ALWAYS  
EASY

- True unity does not “just happen.”
- Unity is achieved through regular, intentional, clear, consistent decision-making and action.

## 2. UNITY is NOT UNIFORMITY

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3. UNITY is NOT  
SILENCE ABOUT  
ABUSE AND  
UNHEALTHY  
BEHAVIOR

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4. UNITY is NOT about  
MY PREFERENCES



# 7 Traits of a “Unifying Member”

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# 1. A Unifying Member CONTROLS THEIR TONGUE - Ephesians 4:29, James 1:26

EPHESIANS 4:29

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.”

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JAMES 1:26

“If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.”



## 2. A Unifying Member GIVES GRACE – Colossians 3:12-13

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

3. A Unifying Member is  
**WILLING TO SACRIFICE**  
**THEIR PREFERENCES** – 1

Corinthians 14:26



“What should be done then, my brothers and sisters? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”

4. A Unifying Member is COMMITTED TO THE COMMON VISION – 1 Corinthians 1:10

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“Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.”

5. A Unifying Member DISTINGUISHES  
BETWEEN DIFFERENCE & DIVERGENCE –  
1 Corinthians 1:10-17

“Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.<sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

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## 5. A Unifying Member DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN DIFFERENCE & DIVERGENCE –

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (cont.)

<sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

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## 5. A Unifying Member DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN DIFFERENCE & DIVERGENCE –

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (cont.)

<sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

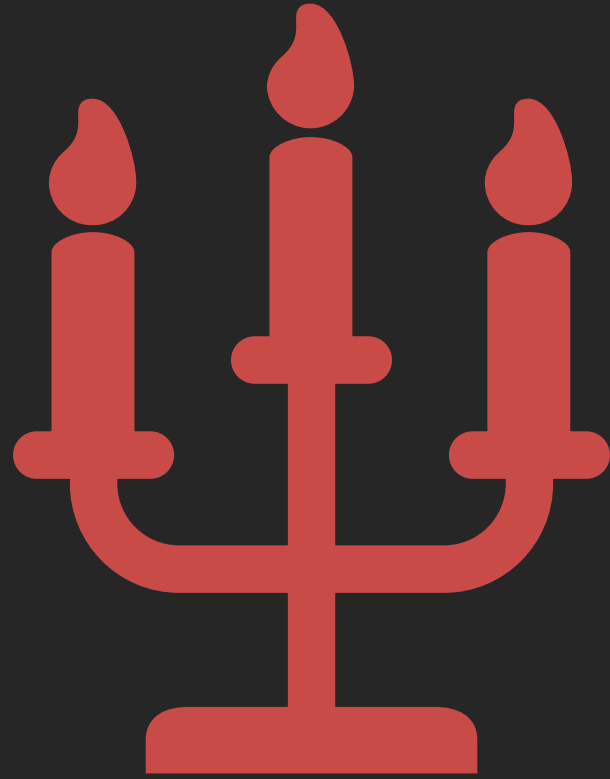
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6. A Unifying Member GUARDS OTHERS'  
INTEGRITY – Romans 15:1-3

"We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

7. A Unifying Member  
CELEBRATES  
STRENGTHS, CARES FOR  
WEAKNESS – Galatians 6:1

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.





## Today's Truth Nugget #2

The power of the Church is evident not in how we handle our strengths, but in how we care for one another's weaknesses, hurts, and vulnerabilities.

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Are YOU Ready To Be “A UNIFIER?”

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER.

I WILL SEEK TO BE A SOURCE OF UNITY IN MY  
CHURCH. I KNOW THERE ARE NO PERFECT  
PASTORS, STAFF, OR OTHER CHURCH  
MEMBERS. BUT NEITHER AM I.

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Are YOU Ready To Be “A UNIFIER?”

I WILL NOT BE A SOURCE OF GOSSIP OR  
DISSENSION. ONE OF THE GREATEST  
CONTRIBUTIONS I CAN MAKE IS TO DO ALL I  
CAN IN GOD’S POWER TO HELP KEEP THE  
CHURCH IN UNITY FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
GOSPEL.

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# QUESTION & ANSWER

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NEXT WEEK'S  
ASSIGNMENT:

CHAPTER 4: I WILL NOT LET MY  
CHURCH BE ABOUT MY  
PREFERENCES AND DESIRES