

Title: **The Gospel-Shaped Unity of the Church**
Text: **1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5**
Date: **August 23, 2026**

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Big Idea

Church unity isn't built by loyalty to leaders, shared heritage, or even a shared cause. It is the fruit of each believer's oneness with Christ. When we drift from Him, we drift from each other; when we walk with Him, we walk together.

I. The Diagnosis: Two Divisions Tearing Corinth Apart

Main verse: 1 Corinthians 1:11-17

The church was split by allegiance to rival leaders ("I follow Paul... Apollos... Cephas") and by pride over whose baptism gave someone superior spiritual status. Both looked like personality conflicts, but Paul treats them as something deeper. He treats the Corinthians disunity as a sin problem.

II. The Verdict: These Divisions Are an Affront to the Gospel

Main verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2:1-5

Crediting a preacher's wisdom or power for their salvation was idolatry, giving God's due to men. Boasting in spiritual heritage was pride,

forgetting they were saved as the foolish and weak so "no human being might boast" before God. Both are sins against God, not just against each other.

III. The Remedy: Gospel-Shaped Responses to Division

Main verse: John 17:20-23

Paul models three moves: preach the gospel to yourself and others, refuse to give up on the church, and remember that the believer you disagree with is still a saint, loved and saved by God. Ultimately, church unity isn't manufactured by a shared cause, it flows from mutual indwelling with Christ, just as the Father and Son are one.

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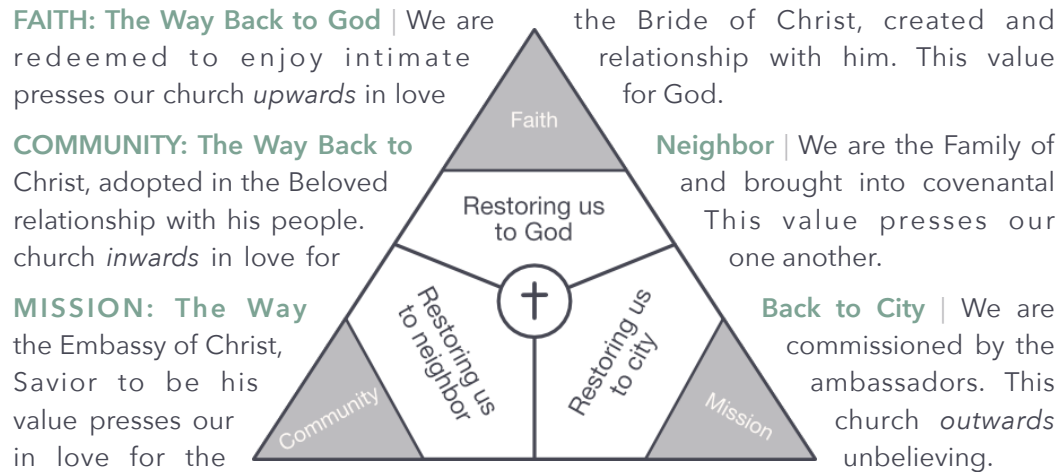


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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Fall Kickoff - All Church BBQ - Next Sunday!

As a way of kicking off the fall we will be hosting a special all church BBQ after the service on Sunday, August 30th. We'll be grilling up hot dogs and sausages (with a veggie option, if preferred)! We'll also provide fruit, chips, cookies, drinks, etc.

All you need to do is RSVP by Friday (8/28) so we can make sure we have enough for everyone! You can also let us know if you'd like to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Thanks!

Scan the QR code below to find the link to RSVP!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Fall Kickoff - Beginning Next Sunday!

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!

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