Cultivating Mission-Minded Unity in the Congregation

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Introduction—
  ▪  About 25 years ago…
  ▪  In many ways, the challenges are even greater…

I. The Challenges to Mission-Minded Unity
   A. The Shift from Purpose to Programs


   B. The Growth of Internal Sub-Cultures
   C. The Drift from Articulation to Assumption to Abandonment
   D. The “Undisciplined Pursuit of More”

II. The Characteristics of Mission-Minded Unity
   A. Commitment to the mission is built on an explicit statement of mission.
   B. Commitment to the mission will be widely shared.
C. Commitment to the mission must be firmly held.

D. Commitment to the mission will be constantly evaluated.

III. The Cultivation of Mission-Minded Unity

A. Clarity

1. Regarding purposes (both ultimate and proximate)

2. Regarding principles (i.e., governing beliefs and values)

3. Regarding priorities (both strategic and tactical)

B. Consistency (does the mission...)

1. Control behavior

2. Guide decisions

3. Anchor plans

4. Frame policies

5. Develop leaders

C. Communication

1. Leading
   a. Assimilation of members
   b. Orientation for servants
   c. Promotion of ministries and events

2. Feeding
   a. Exposition of the texts and truths that should shape congregational life.
   b. Application of biblical truth to congregational, not just personal, life.