



**Big Idea: God is most glorified when His people are most unified.**

### 1.) We share one **FATHER**

- Malachi implores the divided tribes of Israel to remember that they share a common Father.
- Although all people have God as Creator, only those in covenant relationship with Him by faith can rightly call Him Father (John 8:41-47).
- Jesus tells us that we are spiritual **CHILDREN** of the one to whom we listen and give our obedience.
- If you have heard the Gospel and obeyed God's call to repentance and faith, then God is your Father in Heaven (Galatians 4:6).

### 2.) We have become one **FAMILY**

- Ephesians 3:14-15, John 1:12-13
- Malachi urges the people of God to remember that we have a common spiritual inheritance as children of God (Rom. 8:16-17, 12:4-5).

### 3.) Our Father wants His family to be **ONE**

- To belong to Christ means wanting what He wants, and He wants His bride, the church, to be unified (John 17:20-23, Ephesians 4:3).

- Because we are one with Christ, it is a literal spiritual truth that mistreating the church means mistreating Christ Himself (Mat. 25:40, 45).
- One of the chief graces by which our Lord helps us overcome in this world is by giving us each other.
- A heart for **UNITY** with other believers is a critical sign of salvation (John 13: 34-35).

#### 4.) Breaking faith with God's family profanes the **GOSPEL**

- Since God is our Father and we are His children, why would we ever be so foolish or faithless as to act like enemies?
- To deal treacherously with our spiritual brothers and sisters is to disparage our **COVENANT** of salvation with God.
- We trample on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ when we break faith with one other.
- To break faith with God's family is to live in a way that directly contradicts our common faith.

#### 5.) Unity means faithfulness to common **CONVICTION**

- Unity in the church is the lifelong process of living out our common conviction in Christ (Amos 3:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10).
- True Christian unity is rooted in objective truth about what we believe and how we behave.
- Our church covenant sets forth the convictions of our **BROTHERHOOD** as one family in Christ.
- *What are you doing to cultivate brotherhood at FBC?*