

Series: The Power of Agreement (Week 7)

Date: February 26, 2026

Presenter: Pastor Donell M. Winder

Lesson Title: The Enemies of Agreement

Anchor Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10; James 3:14–16

Big Idea

Agreement is weakened by specific attitudes and influences that Scripture consistently identifies as threats to unity. The enemy seeks to fracture unity through pride, jealousy, offense, divisive speech, and spiritual complacency. Unity must be guarded intentionally because division grows where internal conditions remain unchecked which equires discernment, humility, and spiritual vigilance. When the enemies of agreement are confronted honestly and surrendered to God, unity is preserved, maturity is strengthened, and Christ is reflected more clearly through His people.

Key Insights

- **The Enemy of Pride:** Pride elevates personal position above shared purpose and quietly resists yielding for the sake of unity. Scripture reveals that strife does not emerge in isolation but grows where pride has taken root. Pride often disguises itself as defensiveness, frustration, or the need to be proven right, yet its effect is the same: resistance to humility and correction. Agreement deteriorates wherever ego is defended rather than surrendered, but humility protects unity by valuing reconciliation over personal vindication (Proverbs 13:10; James 4:6; Philippians 2:3; Isaiah 14:12–15).
- **The Enemy of Jealousy and Selfish Ambition:** Agreement weakens when collaboration becomes competition and shared mission is replaced by personal positioning. Scripture teaches that where envy and selfish ambition exist, disorder follows, revealing that comparison destabilizes unity from within. Jealousy subtly shifts focus from what God is doing among us to what we believe we deserve individually.. Agreement grows strongest where gratitude replaces comparison and where believers value the health of the body above personal recognition (James 3:14–16; Galatians 5:26; Proverbs 14:30; Philippians 2:1–4).
- **The Enemy of Offense:** Agreement rarely fractures in a moment but erodes through unaddressed hurt and silent assumptions. Scripture describes offense as building fortified walls within the heart, making restoration increasingly difficult when left unresolved. What begins as a small misunderstanding can grow into guarded distance when dialogue is avoided. Agreement is strengthened when courage replaces avoidance and restoration is pursued before bitterness takes root (Proverbs 18:19; Hebrews 12:15; Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:26–27).
- **The Enemy of Gossip and Division:** Division often begins in private conversation before it becomes visible publicly. Scripture warns that careless words and subtle commentary can separate close relationships and reshape perception in harmful ways. Unity is weakened when issues are discussed indirectly rather than addressed directly with those involved. Agreement is protected when speech is disciplined, motives are examined, and conversations are governed by integrity and intentional restraint (Proverbs 16:28; Titus 3:10–11; Ephesians 4:31; James 3:5–6).
- **The Enemy of Spiritual Complacency:** Not every threat to agreement is aggressive; some are gradual and subtle. Scripture warns against spiritual indifference and drift, revealing that unity weakens when vigilance declines. Complacency assumes that agreement will sustain itself without intentional effort, but Scripture calls believers to remain alert and attentive. Agreement remains strong where humility, watchfulness, and ongoing self-examination are practiced consistently rather than occasionally (Revelation 3:15–16; 1 Peter 5:8; Hebrews 2:1; 1 Corinthians 10:12).

Application

1. We must surrender pride quickly so unity is not weakened by ego.
2. We must reject comparison and celebrate others to protect shared purpose.
3. We must address offense directly rather than allowing it to harden into distance.
4. We must guard our speech so our conversations strengthen trust rather than erode it.
5. We must remain spiritually vigilant and intentionally protect the unity God has given.

Closing Thought

Agreement must be guarded because division grows where pride, jealousy, offense, careless speech, and complacency are tolerated. Unity is not preserved by good intention alone but by humility, courage, disciplined communication, and spiritual attentiveness. When believers confront the enemies of agreement honestly and surrender them to God, relationships remain strong and shared mission remains clear. Protecting unity reflects spiritual maturity and honors God's design for His people. As agreement is guarded faithfully, the church reflects Christ more clearly and stands firm against the forces that seek to divide.