

Phil 2:1-4

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

- therefore – look back at what was said
- last several weeks

1. Take a fresh look at Reality

- 'if you have any...'
- an increasing awareness and experience
- easy to forget reality in difficult moments
 - a) Encouragement – 'paraklesis'
 - b) Comfort from His Love
 - c) Common Sharing in the Spirit
 - d) Tenderness & Compassion
- if you can relate to what God has done then.....

2. Continue to Be Conformed

- make my joy complete

 - remember chapter 1 – Joy found in their walk

 - a) like minded – agreement on mission

 - b) having the same love – same basis and definition

 - c) one in spirit – of one mind – body functioning together

 - * Unity – together on mission

 - note not uniformity – but unity

 - all parts working in harmony towards the goal

3. See the Enemies of Unity

a) wrong motives

- do nothing out of
- selfish ambition
 - gain for self, recognition or fame, better than others, what I get out of it
- vain conceit
 - status, impressing others, vocal about sacrifices and investment

b) lack of humility

- literally lowliness – how we view self

- 1 Peter 5:5 *“In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ”*
- James 4:10 *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*
- Matt 6:1-4 *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”*

4. Practice Selflessness

- value others above self
- culture screams – me first, get mine, look after #1
- mindset of Christ follower – others first – above self
- looking not to own interests – but each to others
 - reminds you of healthy marriage – serve each other
 - absence of what I get, focus on what I give
- interesting wording – not the gifts or abilities of others, interests matter
- 4 illustrations of this mindset

a) Jesus Himself – vs. 5-9

b) Paul and His example – vs. 17-18

c) Timothy – vs 19-22

d) Epaphroditus – vs. 25-30

- examples of the mindset of selflessness we need

So What

1. Recall reality

- encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness, compassion – reflect this

2. Continue to Be Conformed

- like minded, same love, one in spirit, of one mind

3. Check your life for the enemies of Unity

- motives – selfish ambition, vain conceit – Pride
- absence of humility – called for in the believer

4. Adopt the Mindset that Matters – be selfless

- how do you value and treat others, look at the example