



Lesson #3: Develop True Unity (Philippians 2:1-4)

Individuals who are honest are honest enough to say that from time to time we find ourselves in conflict, even with fellow believers in the church. How sad. After all, in John 17:21 our Savior and High Priest prayed that we would be _____ even as He is _____ with the Father. Those who find themselves in contention within the body of belief have likely not considered the passage to which we turn this evening. The key note to Philippians 2:1-4 is really the last word in verse 4 – “_____.” The Holy Spirit uses the pen of the Apostle Paul to plead with us to be unified by having an others outlook. **If you are going to have a summer that counts for Christ you need to dwell in _____ with others.**

Do you have an others outlook that promotes unity? Let’s consider these reasons, results, and requirements for unity in Philippians 2:1-4 as we look to have summers that really count!

THE _____ FOR DEVELOPING TRUE UNITY (2:1)

Salvation is the primary tie that binds the church of God together. The Christian’s ability to love and care for others is based on the four common experiences that are annunciated in verse 1.

A. You have a _____ in Christ

The word “consolation” speaks of the _____ that Jesus has given to us. Each of these phrases begins with the word “if”, but this is not an expression of doubt. Instead, Paul is assuming the _____ of each of these descriptions. Literally we could translate this first phrase, “_____ there is an example from Christ.

B. You have a _____ in the Spirit

Paul appeals to the same word that is used to describe the _____ of _____ himself who comes alongside. The comfort we have found is the Holy Spirit coming alongside us in love. Every true believe has experienced this. Since we have received the work of the Holy Spirit who comforts us, then unity should follow.

C. You have a _____ in the Body

Our union with Christ bequeaths to us true _____. Both individually and corporately we have been given a fresh fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God.

D. You have a _____ in Your Soul

Paul uses the strong Greek word for expression of compassionate _____ or tender _____ in this last phrase over verse one. It describes the compassion which moves a man to the deepest depths of his being.

THE _____ FOR DEVELOPING TRUE UNITY (2:2)

_____ times in _____ verses the Spirit of God is going to challenge every believer to focus on others. Paul wants us to think about how we can be a blessing to someone else.

What is the result of this “striving together for the faith of the Gospel” (Phil. 1:27)? Didn’t the Spirit of God reveal it to us in Philippians 2:2? Answer: “Fulfill ye my _____.” Along the way Paul is saying that as he hears about their oneness in the assembly and their unity in the body he is filled with joy!

It really matters to God that you have true _____ this summer but the only way that is possible is if you are willing to seek unity over your petty problems.

THE _____ FOR DEVELOPING TRUE UNITY (2:3-4)

How then can we really have unity this summer?

A. _____ needs to be replaced by _____ (v. 3a)

It’s not about getting your way. It’s not about being on the winning side. It’s really not about forming _____ at all. Don’t let anything be done with that partisan spirit that is always trying to assemble others around your personality or position.

B. _____ needs to be replaced by _____ (v. 3b-4)

No longer living for self but now living (as we note the key word in verse 4) with “_____” in mind. This will mean that we’re going to think more highly of other people than we think of ourselves. This is the hallmark of true community in the church. Our greatest leaders are _____.

Concluding Thoughts

Imagine the _____ and _____ we could experience this summer as a community of believers if we banded together in the name of God to effect change in our homes, city, and the world! It would be remarkable to see what could happen if we all worked together for God’s _____! We can and we should. If we are going to have summers that really count for eternity we need to dwell in unity with others!