

## The Book of Philippians

### Lesson 5

#### Study Notes

#### The Unity That Produces Joy

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Text: Philippians 2:1-4.

*Introduction: This chapter consists principally of exhortations relating to the performance of the various duties of believers and the fact that we should exhibit Christian virtues in all the we do. Paul's desire for the Philippian believers was to live in such a way that he may have \_\_\_\_\_.*

*In Philippians chapter 2 Paul approached more directly the problem that was marring the \_\_\_\_\_ at Philippi. He had already shown the Philippians what a partisan spirit was doing, where some were preaching Christ out of contention, hoping to add affliction to his bonds. He now urges the Philippians to put away the \_\_\_\_\_ from their midst. He will give them the ultimate example of the kind of spirit every Christian should display. The answer to strife would be \_\_\_\_\_ and humility, and both would come through the gift we have receive in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

***Philippians 2: If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,***

#### I. The Motivation for Having Unity That Produces Joy.

The little word "if" here is not a conditional clause. As a matter of fact, this word in the Old English has a different definition than the Modern English word "if." It means \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. This is a common use of the word "If" in the Greek which expresses a condition as a fact, and gives us a point that naturally will follow.

The word "therefore" brings a conclusion to chapter one's thoughts and brings in the practical aspects of the gospel in chapter two. If the Gospel is real to us, it will have an \_\_\_\_\_ on every believer.

*"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ"* The word "consolation" is the Greek word "*Paraklesis*" which means \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, the supreme basis of having unity and joy comes from Christ.

*"If any comfort of love"* The idea is to make things easier by speaking to a person in \_\_\_\_\_. This is the encouragement of tender persuasiveness which love gives, and incentive to action. The comfort seen in the love of Christ that was unselfish, and self-sacrificing. We enjoy the comfort of love that come from God, manifested in Christ, and imparted to us by the \_\_\_\_\_.

*"If any fellowship of the Spirit"* To be in fellowship with the Spirit means we are in \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. The believer has the "indwelling Spirit" and He desires to help us live out the commandments of the Son of God.

**1Corinthians 6:19-20. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

"If any bowels and mercies" The word "bowels" is the same word found in chapter 1:8.

**Philippians 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.**

The word "bowels" means \_\_\_\_\_; the word "mercies" means compassionate yearnings and action. These two graces present in the lives of the Philippians will result in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Unity will prevail, differences will be dissolved, bickering will cease and the estrangement will be healed.

**Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

## II. The Nature of Unity That Produces Joy.

Paul's cup would be filled up to the fullest if these Philippians will heed to his exhortations and admonishments.

A. *This nature of unity that produces joy involves "being like-minded."*

Oneness of purpose, a oneness in \_\_\_\_\_, having the same goals, being unanimous in their decisions; that they think the same thing. With these it may be possible to prevent discord, schism, contention and strife in the church, so that Christians may be harmonious in the promoting the great work of the gospel; the salvation of lost souls. It is the world of lost sinners that suffers while the Church is divided and fighting within itself.

"Having the same love" This unity of affection can only come by the fruit of the Holy Spirit; equally \_\_\_\_\_ and being loved.

"Being of one accord" It means a union of soul; or an \_\_\_\_\_ as if but one soul actuated them. The uniting and harnessing our energies so there are no waste. This work of unity is again the product of the work of the Holy Spirit.

"Of one mind" meaning thinking one thing; unity of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. What Paul was after was not just a patching up of differences, but absolute unity of mind, heart, and purpose in the Lord.

Unity is defined as something far deeper than consent to a common creed; union in the form of worship; participation in a common task. It is unity of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. This is what Christ can and will do if allowed by believers in the church.

**Philippians 2: Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

## III. The Attitudes Required for the Unity That Produces Joy.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory" The idea of "strife" is to put one's self forward and to be \_\_\_\_\_ with a divisive spirit.

"Vainglory" means empty, proud, or groundless self-esteem. These two attitudes of selfish ambition and conceit will most surely destroy the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ in the church. Christian should seek the approval of God, not the applause of men.

"But in lowliness of mind" Humility of mind, a deep sense of one's \_\_\_\_\_. It can be said, that humility is insight into one's own insignificance.

Dr. Andrew Murray has rightly said that "the outliving of true holiness is humility."

The best example of lowliness of mind is Christ Jesus Himself. The pathway to unity is lowly and lonely.

"Let each esteem other better than themselves." We see others not necessarily as essentially superior but as worthy of preferential treatment.

"\_\_\_\_\_" is the key to this passage. It is the Christian faith which first made the word others important. Why did Christ come from heaven's glory to this earth? It was for others. Why should we carry the gospel? For others. To think of others rather than ourselves is having the mind of Christ. (J Vernon McGee)

**Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

The word "look" is a Greek term where we get our word "\_\_\_\_\_." We are to keep an eye for the good of others. They were to be attentive to the interest of others as well as to their own. Every member of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ should practice unselfishness and due consideration for all the others in the church.

"But every man also on the things of others" To look out for the interest of others eliminates the problem of \_\_\_\_\_ and produces an attitude of Christian maturity. Note how we are to demonstrate the life of Christ.

**Romans 15:1-3 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.**

We see that a dominate feature in the life of Christ; His was a life not of self but of giving Himself to others.

**Mark 10:42-45 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Conclusion: These attitudes taught to us in the Scripture are essential if we are going to have unity that produces joy. On one is at liberty to live for himself or to disregard the wants of others. The object of this rule is to break up the narrow spirit of selfishness, and to produce a benevolent regard for the happiness of others.

A man of the flesh "looks out for number one," but a man of the Spirit lives in submission to Christ and in service to his fellowman.