

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & Philippians 2:1-18
Singing: 268:1-4 – 123:1 – 131:1-4 – 371:1-2 – 442:4-5

Let Us Study Philippians (14)

Intro:

- A. What is one of the most effective ways to destroy an enemy?
 - 1. Compare 1 Chron. 20:22-24; Matt. 12:25; Ps. 59:11

- B. This clarifies why Paul emphasized 'unity?' (Phil. 1:27; 2:1-4; 4:2)

UNITY AMONG SAINTS

I. The motivation II. The practice

I. The motivation

- A. Philippi saints had their strong & weak points
 - 1. They were strong on *Foreign Affairs*
 - a. generous: 1:5; 2:25; 4:10; 14-18

 - b. Gospel-fighters: 1:7; 27, 29

 - 2. They were weak on *Domestic Affairs*: threatening disunity among saints

- B. What should motivate or fuel our *efforts* to grow more united as saints?
 - 1. Your inner experience of God's Gospel grace: vs. 1
 - a. define 'if'

 - b. define the Christian experiences described in vs. 1

 - 2. Genuine unity among saints is actually a *by-product* of the Gospel

II. The practice of unity

- A. The practice of true Gospel would fill Paul's cup of joy (2a)
 - 1. Not only Paul rejoices in the *unity of the saints*

 - 2. Jesus prayed for it repeatedly: John 17: 11, 21-23

B. Three elements in the practice of unity

1. vs. 2: oneness in *mind – affections – will*

a. be like-minded

b. have the same love

c. be of one accord, of one mind

2. vs. 3: humility: emphasize (also vs. 4) individual responsibility

a. focus on yourself foremost

b. what fuels me?

c. how do I view myself as compared to others?

3. vs 4: helpfulness is second table of law in short!

a. what this implies: *take care of your own needs*

b. what this exhorts: *not to forget needs of others*

C. How far we need to take this? Is there a limit?

Living this truth:

A. What is the power of Christ's Kingdom?

B. What call did you hear as the saints of God?

TRUTH GEMS ON UNITY

When Scripture speaks of church unity, it speak of unity on the basis of truth,
not at the expense of it.

The best way to promote unity is to promote truth. (Spurgeon)

Unit must be ordered according to God's holy Word,
or else it better war than peace. (Hugh Latimer)