



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Philippians 2:1-8

Unity in the Church Part 2

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Philippians 2:1-8

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:1-8

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection & sympathy

Paul is calling us (church) to unity

Scripture is serious about unity (repeated), Jesus is serious about unity (prayer John 17), we must be serious about unity (purposeful)

God is glorified in unity

Romans 15:5-7 *May the God of endurance & encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection & sympathy

Our unity is supernatural (not man made, God made)

- We are united in Christ, through the Spirit by the new birth
- **John 17:21** *That they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us*

The church is called to “maintain” the unity

- **Ephesians 4:1** *eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit*

Motivating Factors for maintaining unity: *If there is any (b/c of the)*

- Encouragement in Christ
- Comfort from love (consolation)
- Participation (fellowship) in the Spirit
- Affection & Sympathy (Compassion)

Paul is reminding us of all God’s grace & love towards us in Christ, and encouraging us to show our gratitude by glorifying God in unity

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Paul motivated us in v1 and now he is helping us understand unity in v2 (characteristics of unity)

Complete my joy by being of the same mind

- Paul rejoiced in the church at Philippi but his joy was incomplete because there was disunity in the church (4:2)

By being of the same mind

- To think the same thing: For a body to truly be unified they must have the same mind (thinking)
- Throughout the letter Paul is continually calling for the “same mind” (2:5, 3:15, 3:19, 4:8)
- What & How we think is important (Warning Prov 4:23, 1 Tim 4:16)

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

By being of the same mind

1 Corinthians 2:16 *“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

This “way of thinking” is more than doctrinal/theological agreement. It is a mindset that impacts our relationships with one another.

- This is a controlling and governing way of thinking
- **John 4:34** *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”*
- **Romans 8:5-6** *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (Phil 4:8)*
- **Colossians 3:1-2** *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Colossians 3:12-17 *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Being of the same mind is having the mind of Christ, and maintaining the mind of Christ by setting our minds on things above (things of the Spirit) , and not on self (fleshly things). Being filled with the Spirit and letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly is necessary.

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Having the same love

If we are of the same mind, it will manifest itself in love

The love of Christ was poured into our hearts (Rom 5:5) by the Holy Spirit. We have been comforted by it (v1) and now having the mind of Christ, we demonstrate it and follow His example

- **John 13:34** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*
- When our minds are set on Christ and His word, love is produced (gospel centered)
- Disunity comes from love of self
- The call for unity is a call for Christlike love
- **Col 3:14** *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Being in full accord (united in spirit) and of one mind (intent on one purpose)

- If we have the same mind, set on Christ, with His word richly dwelling in us, as we demonstrate love towards one another, we will be united in spirit together and of one mind (one purpose)
- As we by grace fulfill these things, it comes full circle (back to one mind) and further maintains the unity of the body, magnifying God
- One mind-intent on one purpose (NASB)
- Isn't this what we all want?

Is seeing God glorified in our unity a conditional desire we have?