



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 3

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Ephesians 4:11-16

And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the **unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly**, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Factions/Division

- **1 Corinthians 11:19** *for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.*
 - **Factions**-dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims (Groups/Sects)
- It is not a matter of if but when they will come
- How will we respond? How will you respond?
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

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.

V1-2 Encouragement & Understanding

- **Church Unity:** Paul is calling us (church) to unity, scripture repeatedly warns regarding unity, Jesus prayed concerning unity, & God is glorified in our unity.
- We are unified (supernaturally), and we are called to **maintain** (Eph 4:3) the unity (responsibility)
- **V1 Motivated us towards unity:** because of the *encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit and affection & sympathy*
- **V2 Further defined unity:** *being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind*

V3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Stop being selfish!

– (Self)ish-I/Me and root of I is PRIDE

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit

- *Selfish ambition: contending for your way*
 - **Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, **strife**, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 - **James 3:16** *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

V3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit

James 4:1-2 *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.*

Conceit: Vain glory

- Where selfish ambition was the promotion of “my way”, conceit is the promotion “my praise”
- Often revealed when others disagree with you (How do you handle this?)
- The issue again is pride (**Galatians 6:3** *For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*)
- We must set the gospel aside to have this mind about us

But in humility count others more significant than yourselves

I should **put off** selfish ambition and conceit, but I should **put on** humility:

- What should help us remain humble? V1 (The Gospel)
- Humility is lowliness of mind (seeing ourselves rightly before a Holy God)
- **1 Timothy 1:15** *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*
- **Ephesians 3:8** *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ*

But in humility count others more significant than yourselves

In humility (in looking through the gospel) count others more significant than yourselves

- *Count*: Deem, consider, think
- Even though they don't deserve it (gospel centered relationships)

The reason we struggle to treat others with gospel treatment is we don't believe God

Humility is the opposite of “the sense of entitlement” our society preaches. The feeling of “you owe me” and “I will repay when I don't get what I want” is pagan thinking and void of the gospel.

The issue in all of this is our lack of understanding and preaching of the gospel to ourselves daily

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

When, in humility, you count others more significant than yourself, you will look out for others interests, not just your own.

A proper understanding of the gospel, frees us up to live for God (in serving others), because God has forgiven and adopted us.

- When we live for ourselves, we do not believe the gospel
- **2 Corinthians 5:15** *He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised*

Striving for Unity

We must be daily renewing our minds in the gospel, taking all thoughts captive to the gospel and continuing to explore the depths of the gospel or we will live for self (and not Christ)

Striving for unity

What do we do when the issue we are dealing with is sin? Handle it biblically

- **Matthew 7:5** *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*
- **Galatians 6:1** *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.*
- **Matthew 18:15** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.*

We must all guard against any form of gossip

- **Proverbs 20:19** *Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler.*
- **Proverbs 26:20** *For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.*
- **Proverbs 16:28** *A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.*

Leading, guiding, correcting and teaching our children