



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 10

Spiritual Unity -

Philippians 2:1-4, *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Last week we looked at the verse 1 about the four important aspect of motive for our spiritual unity, namely

- Consolation in Christ,
- Comfort of love,
- Fellowship of the spirit and
- Affection and mercy.

Apostle Paul stresses the need for unity among the believers in every letter, which we saw in the previous lesson.

The letter to the church in Ephesus he writes,
Ephesians 4:1-6, I, *therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,*

How a believer should walk worthy?

² *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

By humility and with oneness in spirit and unity.

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

In this few verse we can see seven times he uses the phrase 'one'

What is unity?

What does it look like?
How are we to view it?
What is its nature?

Look at verse 2, *fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

Fulfil my joy! Remember we read about Hebrews 13:17 last verse in our last study that those who lead you should be joyful in serving the Lord.

Four things from the above verse

- Being like minded
- Having same love,
- Being one accord in spirit and
- One mind

Being like minded

1 Corinthians 1:10, *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speaking the same thing**, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the **same mind** and in the same judgment.*

As we all know what kind of divisions in the church in Corinth yet apostle Paul asking them to be of like-

minded. A key to unity is thinking alike. Unison of thought is essential to true spiritual unity. We have to think alike nothing else!

This unity does not come by human means. It can happen only by God, but we need to understand the importance of it to accomplish the divine plans and purposes.

This church does not have any doctrinal or ethical issues yet apostle Paul asking them to be like minded. In my own personal experiences, there are many people walked out of church not because of this kind of issues but for some silly disagreements.



Look at the harmony at an orchestra! The music conductor gives the instructions and all the instruments

players pay close attention and play their instruments according to the instructions to bring the best music.

In this no one thinks that their music is important their sound is important they all play according to the conductor. A Like-minded attitude bring the best music.

In the choir each one of their voices is unique and different. They sing different parts. Not all of their notes, rhythms, tones or words are the same all of the time, but when brought together they make a beautiful song. In the same way, God knits His church together with a variety of colours, flavours, strengths and weaknesses, visions, gifts, preferences and callings and He brings them all together with One Mind, One Accord, One Passion to make Him a glorious song.

I want you to draw a clear parallel from this to spiritual. How they keep looking at the conductor the similar way we need to have our focus on the Lord.

Romans 8:4-5, *that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh **but according to the Spirit.***⁵ *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, the things of the Spirit.*

Walk according to the spirit. If you walk according to the flesh then you set your sight on the earthly things not on the spiritual things.

This is the reason Paul prays to the church in Rome that God may grant them the like mindedness in Christ.

Romans 15:5, *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,*

If God grants that then it's possible for us to have that kind of mind. Yes, it's possible.

1 Corinthians 2:16, *For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

How can I get this attitude?

Colossians 3:2-3, ²*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* ³*For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

You set your mind on things above. So filled with the heavenly thoughts and things of God.

This brings us to the promise of God for us to this 2017 for our church.

Colossians 3:15-16, *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

We are called to be one body!

To achieve that let the word of Christ dwell in us richly with all wisdom.

For this one body to have the same mind it is got to grow in equal measure and joined together in perfect harmony.

Ephesians 4:16, *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

So here again the people leave the church not because of doctrinal issues or ethical issues it's mostly on the attitude problems among them!!

Having same love

If we have the same mind then naturally the same love will flow through.

Romans 12:10, *Be kindly affectionate to **one another with brotherly love**, in honour giving preference to one another*

We have been commended by God to love one another in love!

We started our ministry on the principle of 1 John 3:36, many of us know John 3:16 but very few only know this.

1 John 3:16, *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And **we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.***

When you think the things of the Spirit then you will have the sound, spiritual, objective judgment of God. When you think with the mind of Christ then will have maturity you think spiritually, and you think heavenly and naturally you will maintain “the same love.”

Because Christ and the Spirit will be loving through you the difficult person and love for one another will be the outflow from you.

Being one accord in spirit

Being one accord is essential in the early church. Right from the time the birth of church on the Day of Pentecost we see the church was in one accord.

Acts 2:1, *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place.*

Prayer and Supplication

Acts 1:14, *These all continued with **one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Fellowship and Community

Acts 2:46, *So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

Praised God

Acts 4:24, *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with **one accord** and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,*

Experienced Miracles

Acts 5:12, *And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with **one accord** in Solomon's Porch.*

Raised Up and Sent Out Missionaries

Acts 15:25, *it seemed good to us, being assembled with **one accord**, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,*

Glorify God

Romans 15:6, *that you may with **one mind** and **one mouth** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:27, *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel,*

God desires His people to be in one accord. He wants us to be able to join together to worship and serve Him in one accord. We need to stop looking at believers from other churches, or those who differ on minor issues, as

outsiders or enemies. This harms the church as a whole and hurts the heart of our Father.

One mind

When we see all the three points then this is coming out of all the three of the above. When you have likeminded people with one Spirit then you8 have a common purpose that purpose will unites us and give one mind.

Conclusion:

In our modern day society, the people are full of selfish, self-indulgent, self-centred, reserved, materialistic people who can think only of their own things. This has also crept into our churches.

So, when people come to church they are looking to see what and how they can benefit rather than how they can serve the Lord by serving others in the church and in the community at large.

The church and the believers are supposed to be the salt and light to the earth. We are supposed to role model how a Jesus Christ church should look like. Yet we failed in many areas.

Application for us today:

John 17:11, *Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that they may be one as We are.***

This is the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no disunity or problem between the God the Father, Son Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. They are in perfect unity.

So we ought to have such a unity with one another.

To do that humble yourself and think and have the mind of God.

