



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 09

Spiritual Unity - Motive

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.*

We see a genuine love between the Apostle Paul and the church at Philippi.

Ch1: 3, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." "Every time I think about you I'm thankful."

V 4, "Every time I pray for you it is with joy."

V 5, "Grateful for your participation in the gospel, from the first day until now"

V 8, "I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

V 19, "I know your prayers shall result in my deliverance and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

Ch 2:12 "You have always obeyed, and I want you to continue to obey."

Ch 3:16, "let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained."

Ch 4:10, he rejoices in the Lord greatly because they had shown their concern to him.

V 16, "It isn't the first time you sent me an offering; even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs."

- Paul is very happy with this church
- There is no problem in doctrine
- No immorality
- Very generous in supporting the missions
- Devoted, consistent and doctrinally true church

In spite of all this in the church there is disunity and conflicts in the church. Today many churches have gone

into trouble only because of the disunity among the people.

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,*

4:1-2, *Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. ²I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.*

Motives

When he wrote the Romans, he brought it up at least three times: **Romans 12:10**, *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another*

Romans 12:16, *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

In Romans chapters 14 and 15 the topic is the same.

1 Corinthians 1:10, *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak 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.*

2 Corinthians 13:11, *Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

Paul speaks about unity when he writes to the church in Galatian in chapters 4 and 5.

To the church in Ephesus when he writes them in chapter 4 he speaks about unity.

To the church Colossae in chapter 3 he mentions the same.

To the church in Thessalonica in Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, *But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;*

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure*

So we must understand that it is always one major potential disaster for the church of Jesus Christ is disunity.

- Why unity?
- Why is it important for us to be of one mind?
- Why is it important for us to maintain unity in the church?
- Why is it important for us to have one spirit? To be striving together?
- To eliminate conflict? Discord? Disunity?
- Why is it important?

1. *If there is any consolation in Christ*

Encouragement from Christ. Holy Spirit is our comforter and encouragement. We do get constant supply of comfort and encouragement from Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit.

John 14:16, And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor— Counsellor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever. (AMP)

2. *If any comfort of love*

Love is not a human love we have received the ‘agape’ love from God. So we got to know such love.

John 17:23, *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

Amazing verse to know that how much God loves us , that’s why Jesus told us that how the world will know that we are His followers?

John 13:35, *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

3. *If any fellowship of the Spirit*

We have become the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 6) so as a born again believers we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Which opens the gates of opportunity to live in His presence and sweet fellowship.

- Holy Spirit has effected your regeneration,
- Holy Spirit is effecting your sanctification,
- Holy Spirit is guaranteeing your eternal glory,
- Holy Spirit is unceasingly praying for you with groanings that can't find human words,
- Holy Spirit is gifting you, filling you, producing fruit in you,
- Holy Spirit is teaching you,
- Holy Spirit is enabling you to resist temptation,
- Holy Spirit has given you the Word,
- Holy Spirit is filling you with holy impulses,
- Holy Spirit has given you *everything* pertaining to life and godliness,

Will you disrupt that which is most dear to His heart, the unity of the church?"

4. *If any affection and mercy,*

Love is sort of an intellectual thing whereas affection is a feeling. It's a longing.

Conclusion:

Paul writes to them like a father how he cared for them. So he says that you do all this so that as a father my joy will be complete.

Ch 2:2, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

So this is not a correctional letter yet Paul uses his authority as a father and in love he is asking them to be like minded being of one accord in same love.

Application for us today:

Hebrews 13:17, *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

Those who serve in the leadership should serve people with joy not in grief.

If they do it in grief then it's not going to be profitable to you.