

# **UNITY IN THE CHURCH**

## **Philippians 2:1-4**

**How is the church unified and what does that unity look like?**

### **I. THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY** (1)

- What we have

#### **A. A CERTAIN FOUNDATION**

1. The statement “if there is” is not hypothetical nor doubtful
2. These are actual, fulfilled conditions

#### **B. A SUBSTANTIVE FOUNDATION**

1. Encouragement in Christ
  - a. In Christ together
  - b. Encouraged together
2. Consolation of love
  - A persuasive, powerful and personal prompting of one to lay aside anxiety
3. Fellowship of the Spirit
  - a. A Spirit-empowered devotion - Acts 2:42
  - b. A Spirit-enabled cooperation - Gal. 2:9
4. Affection and compassion
  - a. Affection: A personal longing for one dearly loved - see Phil. 1:8
  - b. Compassion: A sympathetic sensitivity - See Matt. 9:36
  - c. Moved with emotion and acting accordingly

### **II. THE FULLNESS OF UNITY** (2-4)

- What we should develop

#### **A. A LEADER-MINDED MENTALITY** (2a)

1. The Command (the only command in this text)
  - Make my joy complete > Bring it to its fullness
2. The Condition
  - a. The leader does not create the joy but encourages it
  - b. The goal for Paul, was to see them mature and diligently preserve their unity
  - c. The attempt to bring joy to one’s spiritual leader is a worthwhile way to honor him
    - See Heb. 13:17

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**B. A LIKE-MINDED MOTIVATION (2b)**

1. Being of the same mind
  - Espousing a mutual cause and endorsing united action
2. Maintaining the same love
  - Loving others equally even though all are not equally attractive
3. United in spirit
  - A selfless harmony seeking one accord
4. Intent on one purpose
  - a. The root for “purpose” is the same as “mind” at the beginning of this list
  - b. It’s as though Paul circles back to his first thought and restates it for emphasis

**C. A LOW-MINDED MANNER (3-4)**

1. Our Attitude (3)
  - a. The prohibited: Selfishness and empty conceit
  - b. The prescribed: Humility of mind and regard for others
2. Our Outlook (4)
  - a. The forbidden: A focus on your particular interests
  - b. The favorable: Focusing on other’s interests

**CONCLUSION:****God wants unity in His church ...**

- He wants unity in this church!
- Will we be unified?
- See Ephesians 4:1-3