

Spiritual Unity
Philippians 2:1-5

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

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,¹

Introduction:

Our First real introduction to selflessness is in our coming to Christ for Salvation

Luke 14

Matt 16 24

Matt 9:23

Matt 5:1

I am deeply concerned about the church because I believe that our society, the culture in which we live, has created monsters, selfish, self-indulgent, egotistical, introverted, consumptive, materialistic people who can think only of their own things. And the spill over of this is literally devastating the churches. We are hostile. We are angry. We have had so much of this "do your own thing" philosophy embedded so deeply into us that we know very little of what it is to seek oneness and to give ourselves away for one

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Php 2:1–5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

another. And the legacy of this warped pagan godless culture is to produce monsters of self-indulgence. It's very difficult to stay separated from that. And the threat that it is to the church is frightening...frightening

This time of year that should be great time of thanksgiving, giving to one another and sacrifice has rapidly become a time of greed, lust, selfishness

I am deeply concerned about the church because I believe that our society, the culture in which we live, has created monsters, selfish, self-indulgent, egotistical, introverted, consumptive, materialistic people who can think only of their own things. And the spill over of this is literally devastating the churches. We are hostile. We are angry. We have had so much of this "do your own thing" philosophy embedded so deeply into us that we know very little of what it is to seek oneness and to give ourselves away for one another. And the legacy of this warped pagan godless culture is to produce monsters of self-indulgence. It's very difficult to stay separated from that. And the threat that it is to the church is frightening...frightening

It has been called "America's most disturbing holiday". Black Friday is the day when millions of average Americans wait outside retail stores in the middle of the night in the freezing cold to spend more money that they do not have for more cheap Chinese-made products that they do not need. It is a day when the rest of the world makes fun of Americans for behaving like "rabid animals" and "zombies" as we indulge in a tsunami of greed. It truly is a shameful orgy of materialism for a morally bankrupt nation.

It is estimated that about 140 million of Americans participate

The amount of merchandise that is purchased on Black Friday is absolutely staggering. For example, just consider how much stuff is sold [at Wal-Mart alone...](#)

Wal-Mart said it recorded more than 10 million register transactions between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday in its stores and nearly 400 million page views that day on walmart.com. It sold 2.8 million towels, 2 million televisions, 1.4 million tablets, 300,000 bicycles and 1.9 million dolls. Big-ticket electronics like big-screen TVs and new videogame consoles were among the top sellers.

But each and every year, Black Friday also seems to bring out the worst in many people, and this year was certainly no exception. The following are just a few of the national headlines about the rioting and the violence that we witnessed...

- "[Holiday shopping season kicks off with fights, arrests](#)"
- "[Violence flares as shoppers slug it out for best Black Friday deals](#)"
- "[Watch Screaming Mobs Fight Over Televisions At Wal-Mart](#)"
- "[Two Arrested After Stabbing Over Parking Space At Wal-Mart](#)"

-"[Rialto Walmart Thanksgiving brawl sends one police officer to hospital](#)"

-"[Walmart Ejects Customer For Filming Violent 'Black Thursday' Mobs](#)"

-"[Cops: Shoplifting suspect shot after dragging officer](#)"

And sometimes the violence extends out into the parking lots and into the surrounding neighborhoods. In [Las Vegas](#), a man that was carrying a big-screen television home from Target was shot in the leg...

According to police, a man purchased a big-screen television from the Target store near Flamingo Rd. and Maryland Pkwy. While he was walking to a nearby apartment complex, a man approached and fired a warning shot, causing the victim to drop the television, police said.

Officers tell 8 News NOW the gunman then took the television to a nearby car that was waiting, where a second man helped the gunman load the TV into the car.

The victim approached the two men and tried to get the television back. That prompted the gunman to fire several more rounds, shooting the victim in the leg.

Eph 4: 1-4 Parallel passage

Paul Under stood clearly the need for Unity

I Cor 1

We should seek Unity for these Reasons

What are the reasons we should seek unity

If 1st class conditional sentence

1. Encouragement in Christ all that Christ did
2. Confirmation of Love in Christ- gentle cheering
3. Fellowship of the Spirit – what the Spirit has done for you
4. Sympathy of the Spirit - tender care of believers

Understand that disunity is not as sin against doctrine

But rather a person It is the violation of a relationship

5 Paul said to do if for me

Heb 13:17

I Thess 5:12

One of the most greavious things a pastor or any leadership will face is disunity.

Lesson

The Reasons for Unity

The Requirements for Unity

1. Being of the Same mind
2. Maintaining the same love
3. United in spirit
4. Intent on One purpose

These are the Requirements of Spiritual Unity

1. Being of same Mind Gk Phroneo Think alike

I Cor. 1:10

Unity comes when we think alike

Not just doctrine
 This is beyond doctrine
 This is Attitude

Same feeling, disposition, attitude or concern.

This is not possible on a fleshly human level, only will happen on a spiritual level

This is the basis behind believer marring believers, Believer and unbelievers have a different attitude or mind set

The term phroneo is used here to help us understand
 Romans 8:4---

We must have spiritual thoughts
 Conflict is always spirit vs flesh or flesh vs flesh but Never spirit vs spirit

Romans 12:3----

We must have sound objective Biblical God centered judgement
 Not subjective, our own feeling and desires

Romans 15:5

We must have Christ Centered thoughts

I Cor 2:16

Conflict is always the collision of sinful attitudes

2 Cor 13:11

Col 3;2

How can I have the spiritual thoughts

Col 3:12-----16=====

Same as Eph 5:18

We must be so full of the Word and Spirit that Our instincts or our involuntary reactions are godly, spiritual, unifying

2 Maintain the same Love
 Love everyone the same
 Not emotion,
 It is a mutual sacrificial love

In [Romans 12:10](#) it puts it this way, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." Be devoted to one another means to meet one another's needs, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." First John 3 says that if you look on your friend and he has needs and you close up your compassion to him, it's questionable whether the love of God even dwells in you. Love acts in behalf of someone else's need. God so loved the world that He gave what man so desperately needed. This is an element of unity. Loving everyone the same.

Now let me make it as clear as I can. When you think the things of the Spirit, when you have the sound spiritual objective judgment of God, when you think with the mind of Christ, when you think with maturity, and when you think spiritually, and when you think heavenly, you will maintain the same love. Because Christ and the Spirit will be loving through you and love for one another will be the outflow.

. I don't care whether it's at the level of lay people in the church or at the level of leadership in the church, it comes because somebody feels in their heart something other than love for someone else. Bitterness, envy, jealousy, personal ambition, protectionism, possessiveness, sometimes hostility. And it is out of that attitude, that loveless attitude, that the conflicts come

3 united in Spirit,

this is an interesting word, sumpsuchos used only one time in the whole New Testament,
one souled

it is the unity of passion and direction.

4 Intent on one purpose

Our intent which flows out of the same minded love for the passion and direction of the kingdom