

January 15th, 2023-PM

Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Pastor Josh Montgomery

“The great need for Humility and Unity”

Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction:

Within the context of our scripture Paul is continuing to give Pastoral council to the Church at Philippi.

Paul had a great hand in starting this church in Acts 16 and even though he is not with them he is still desiring to invest in them on a spiritual basis.

Paul makes a statement in Vs 2 that I want to center these 11 verses around.

Text Vs 2 *“Fulfill ye my joy”*

No doubt the congregation at the Church at Philippi appreciated the investment and the ministry of the Apostle Paul.

He had spent much time preaching, praying, investing, and counseling this church.

When Epaphroditus brought a generous gift from the church in Philippi, and good news of the church's concern for Paul, he also brought the bad news of a possible division in the church family.

Apparently there was a double threat to the unity of the church; false teachers coming in from without (Phil. 3:1-3) and disagreeing members within. (Phil 4:2)- Warren Weirsbe

It is almost as if Paul is saying to this Church “If you want to be a blessing to me, if you want to bring joy to me, then do these things”.

Church is not about making the Preacher happy, but rather about pleasing the LORD.

Thus, we know that Paul is not being selfish or self-serving in this text because the things that he mentions are things that will bring glory to Jesus Christ.

I have often said as a Pastor “You don’t have to line up with me. Line up with God’s word”

In these 11 verses we find that Paul is speaking about the subjects of Unity and Humility. He will conclude these thoughts by magnifying the LORD Jesus Christ who is the purpose of our Unity and the prodding for our Humility.

End of Introduction:

I. The *Exhortation Needed.* Vs 1-4

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

This was a great Church!

But they still needed this Exhortation concerning Unity and Humility.

1. The *Spiritual Reputation.* Vs 1

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,”

Paul is not questioning these things in the Church of Philippi, but rather he knows that these things exist within the church.

Adrian Rogers said this was:

- Consolation in Christ.- Common *LORD.*
- Comfort in Love.- Common *Love.*
- Fellowship of the Spirit.- Common *Life.*
- Bowels and mercies- Common *Load.*

A. The *Consolation.*

The Consolation in Christ speaks of the Encouragement that we find in Jesus Christ!

- ❖ **Salvation** he **Purchased**.
- ❖ **Supply** he **Promises**. (Phil 4:19)
- ❖ **Scriptures** he **Produced**.
- ❖ **Sanctification** he **Perfects**.(Phil 1:6)
- ❖ **Strength** he **Provides**. (Phil 4:13)

B. The **Comfort**.

The Comfort in love speaks of not of an earthly love but of a heavenly love.

Romans 5:5 *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

C. The **Companion**.

The Fellowship of the Spirit speaks indwelling Spirit of God that came at the moment of Salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:22 *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

D. The **Compassion**.

The Bowels and mercies deal the heart, sincerity, sympathy.

2. The **Singleness Requested**. Vs 2

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Paul is stating to this Church, “Since you have all these blessings in Christ (**consolation in Christ**) and since you have this **Comfort in love** (love of God shed abroad in our hearts). And since the Spirit of God indwells each of you as believers. (**Fellowship in the Spirit**) And since you have an inward sympathy towards the needs of others (**bowels and mercies**), then you need to have unity!

Paul knew what some church workers today do not know, that there is a difference between unity and uniformity.

True spiritual unity comes from within; it is a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure from without. (Conformity to a pattern or rule; Websters) - Warren Weirsbe.

Since they have all these things as believers that he list in Vs 1, then they should have Unity in Vs 2.

Unity is not everyone getting along, it is everyone singing the same song.

Paul admonishes the Church in Philippians 1:27 *“striving together for the faith of the gospel”*

He is speaking of Unity.

Psalm 133:1 *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

If two believers cannot “get along” one of them is not filled with the Spirit of God!

Notice Paul’s request in detail.

A. Likeminded.

To think the same thing.

We all have different opinions about different things.

But when we come to the Gospel, to the Church, to the Ministry we must all be likeminded in wanting to give glory and honor to Jesus Christ!

B. Having the same Love.

Mental agreement will not last for long if they did not put their hearts into it.- John Phillips

C. Being of one accord, of one mind.

This speaks of having the same purpose!

Obviously, the Church at Philippi had some disagreements somewhere along the way (he hints to a couple of people in Philippians 4) and Paul is admonishing them to get things right.

3. The *Selfless Requirement*. Vs 3

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

There will be no Unity unless there is Humility.

A. The Rebuke. *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;”*

Strife pulls the other person down. Vainglory puts oneself up- John Phillips

Strife has no place in the life of a Christian.

Proverbs 20:3 *It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.*

Strife- a desire to put one's self forward.

The first mention of “strife”

Genesis 13:7

And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

Strife is listed as one of the works of the flesh.

Galatians 5:20

*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, **strife**, seditions, heresies,*

Vainglory- groundless, self esteem, empty pride.- Right things done for the wrong reason.

An enemy of Unity is Pride!

Proverbs 6:16-17 *These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A **proud** look,*

Galatians 6:3

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

B. The Route. *“but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*

How do we combat strife and vainglory? By being Humble!

Humility is the opposite of conceit and selfish ambition. Humility is concern for the advancement of others. -John Philips

“The humble person is not one who thinks meanly (Without dignity or rank; in a low condition;) of himself; he simply does not think of himself at all!” - Andrew Murray

James 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

4. The *Saints Responsibility*. Vs 4

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

A. There is a *Caution*.

“Look not every man on his own things,”

We must get our eyes off of ourselves!

The Selfish only look out for themselves!

Luke 17:33 *Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.*

B. There is a *Consideration*.

“but every man also on the things of others.”

Instead of always wanting to “receive a blessing” we should strive to “be a blessing”.

Acts 20:35 *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

II. The *Example Noted*. Vs 5-8

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

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

To show us an Example of Humility and Unity he points us to the greatest example that we have in the person of the LORD Jesus Christ.

1. The *Supreme Position*. Vs 5-6

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

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

The mind of Christ means the attitude Christ exhibited. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus- Warren Weirsbe.

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

2. The *Submissive Practice*. Vs 7-8a

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself,

In Paul's appeal to the Church at Philippi to be humble, he reminds them of how far Jesus Christ went for their salvation.

Jesus did not lay aside his deity when he came to earth.

He did not stop being God.

But rather he took on human flesh.

In Matthew 17 we find the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ.

This is the event where Jesus allowed the disciples to see his glorified body without the human flesh.

This proves that he was God his entire time on earth!

We note that the text tells us that he took upon the form of a Servant.

The word "Servant" here is the word translated "Bond servant" in the Old testament.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

We find an illustration of Jesus being a servant in John 13.

John 13:3-5 *Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

This was the job of the servant to wash the feet of the guest when they came into a home.

But none of the disciples took up this task. So the LORD Jesus Christ humbled himself so that he might make others who were dirty, CLEAN!

What was his motivation?

John 13:1 *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

3. The *Sacrificial Provision*. Vs 8b

“and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

There had to be a sacrifice, there had to be an offering for sin.

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

There was no search made, there was no question of who it would be that would make a sacrifice for the sins of man.

III. The *Exalted Name*. Vs 9-11

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Some would argue that the resurrection is missing from this text, but Paul did not leave off the resurrection for he says that God hath “highly exalted him” meaning that he is alive!

1. The *Comfort* of his name. Vs 9

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”

There are many names that are high and prominent in this world, but there is only one name that is above every name, and that is the name of Jesus!

The comfort that we find in this is that Jesus Christ is our personal Saviour. No matter what this world does, and who is in charge there will never be a greater than our Saviour Jesus Christ!

2. The *Contents* of his name. Vs 10-11

“10 That at the name of Jesus”

“11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”

A. Jesus- This speaks of his *Purpose*- Salvation.

Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Acts 4:10-12 *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

B. Christ- This speaks of his *Prophecy*. - Messiah.

Christ means anointed one.

This means that Jesus was the one who was prophesied to come in the Old Testament.

John 4:25-26 *The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.*

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

C. LORD- This speaks of his *Power*.

The name LORD means “The Existing one”

By defining the word “Exist” we further of definition of the name LORD.

a) He is Literal.

Websters 1828- To be; to have an essence or real

b) He is Living.

Websters 1828- To live; to have life.

c) He has **Longevity**.

Websters 1828- To remain; to endure; to continue in being.

d) He is my **Leader**.

The word LORD gives the idea of authority.

3. The **Confession** of his name. Vs 10-11

“10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

According to this verse every knee of everyone who has ever lived will have to bow and confess the fact that Jesus Christ is LORD!

A. All those in **Heaven**. “of things in heaven”

B. All those **Here**. “and things in earth”

C. All those in **Hell**. “and things under the earth;”

Conclusion:

The beginning of this text speaks of Unity and Humility. Then Paul gives the example of Christ and his humility in the incarnation that led to his crucifixion, and resurrection.

Then Paul informs us that God has exalted Christ and exalted his name.

What does this have to do with Humility and Unity?

Humility and Unity Exalt the name of Jesus Christ!

Because when we realize all that Jesus Christ has done for us, and how glorious he is, it reminds us of how lowly we are and how we should be humble and unified for the sake of the Gospel.

