

**A LIFE**

*PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS*

**OF JOY**

## Paul's Letter to the Church of Philippi: A Message of Love & Encouragement.

- **Acts 16:** Paul and the Philippian Christians share mutual hardships that have forged within them a deep love for one another and Joy in Jesus.
  - He is *not* writing to correct, instruct or rebuke them ... he's writing because he deeply loves them ... and they love him!
- The purpose of Paul's letter: *"Thank you for your love & concern!!"*

*<sup>10</sup> I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again ... <sup>18</sup> At the moment I have all I need and more, because I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus! (Chapter 4)*

**Review:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)

*<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God ...*

**Truth:** Joy is *not* a response to circumstances, but to healthy relationships with God, others and self.

**Review:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)

*<sup>3</sup>Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.*

2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)

- *<sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy,*
- *<sup>5</sup>because of your partnership (**koinonia**) with me in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.*

**Truth:** “*partnership*” is not hard to measure.

- Prayer ... we pray consistently for others.
- Serving ... we delight in fussing over others.
- Generosity ... we bring what we have without reservation.

**Review:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)
2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)
3. Christian Joy lives in the present ... but anticipates the future. (v.v. 6)

*<sup>6</sup>And I am confident of this: that God,*

- *who began the good work within you,*
- *will continue his work*
- *until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

**THIS WEEK:** The Joy found in Unity. (Philippians 2:1-5)

*2<sup>1</sup>Do you have any encouragement from being united in Christ? Do you have any comfort from his love? Do you have any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? <sup>2</sup>Then make my joy complete by being of one mind, of one love, and of one spirit & purpose.*

*<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Don't seek only what is best for you, but seek the best for others, too.*

*<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

**The Essentials of Christian Unity**: (Philippians 2:1-5)

**Principle**: Spiritual power within any congregation is directly connected to it's level unity.

... unity determines whether a church moves forward in glory & victory.

*Father, I pray for those who will believe in me ...<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, just as you are in me and I am in you ... may be brought to complete unity.*

*Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

Jesus – John 17

**Principle:** Spiritual power within any congregation is directly connected to it's level unity.

... unity determines whether a church moves forward in glory & victory.

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

### **1. A Common Foundation.** (v.1)

#### **a. In Jesus.**

- *Do you have any encouragement from being united in Christ?*
- *Do you have any comfort from his love?*

#### **b. In the Holy Spirit.**

- *Do you have any fellowship together in the Spirit?*
- *Are your hearts tender and compassionate?*



## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

### **1. A Common Foundation.** (v.1)

- a. In Jesus.
- b. In the Holy Spirit.

**Truth:** when we violate our unity in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we violate our relationship in Christ together ... you cannot live out of fellowship with others and be in fellowship with Christ.

*<sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.                      1 John 4*

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. **A Common Foundation.** (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

2. **A Common Perspective.** (v. 2)

- a. **Attitude** – *being of one-mind,*

- **Note** – Paul is not writing here about doctrine, but of attitude!
  - doctrine, though essential, is no guarantee of unity.

*<sup>9</sup> If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”... (and) <sup>13</sup>“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* Romans 10

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. **A Common Foundation.** (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

2. **A Common Perspective.** (v. 2)

- a. Attitude – *being of one-mind,*

- b. Inclination – *being of one love (agape),*

- loving one another equally ... no grudges ... no cliques ...
- everyone “loving more” together!

*<sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God ...*

Acts 2

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. **A Common Foundation.** (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

### **2. A Common Perspective.** (v. 2)

- a. Attitude – *being of one-mind,*
- b. Inclination – *being of one love (agape).*
  
- c. Intention – *being of one spirit and purpose.*

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”*

Hebrews 12

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. A Common Foundation. (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. A Common Perspective. (v. 2)
  - in attitude, inclination & intent.
3. **A Common Serving.** (v. 3-4)
  - a. a Servant's posture – *no selfish-ambition or vain conceit.*

*<sup>7</sup> Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ ... for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him.*

Philippians 3

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. **A Common Foundation.** (v.1)  
• in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

2. **A Common Perspective.** (v. 2)  
• in attitude, inclination & intent.

**3. A Common Serving.** (v. 3-4)

a. a Servant's posture – *no selfish-ambition or vain conceit.*

b. a Servant's position – *in humility, regarding others as better than myself.*

• “*better than*” - Gk. - huperecho: more valuable; greater

➤ Php 3:8 – *in view of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ.*

➤ Php 4:7 – *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & minds in Jesus.*

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1. A Common Foundation. (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. A Common Perspective. (v. 2)
  - in attitude, inclination & intent.
3. **A Common Serving.** (v. 3-4)
  - a. a Servant's posture – *no selfish-ambition or vain conceit.*
  - b. a Servant's position – *humbly regarding others as more valuable than myself.*
  - c. a Servant's priority – *seeking the best for others ...*

*<sup>25</sup>Jesus gathered his disciples and said, "You see how the rulers in this world lord it over their people and flaunt their authority... <sup>26</sup>But among you it will be different. If you want to lead others, you must serve them ... <sup>28</sup>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve others and give his life as a ransom for many."*

## **The Essentials of Christian Unity:** (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. A Common Foundation. (v.1)
  - in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. A Common Perspective. (v. 2)
  - in attitude, inclination & intent.
3. A Common Serving. (v. 3-4)
  - a Servant's posture, position, priority.
4. **A Common Example.** (v. 5)
  - *Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.*

(next message)



*<sup>1-3</sup> How wonderful, how beautiful,  
when God's people live together in unity!*

*It's like costly anointing oil  
flowing down head and beard,  
Flowing down Aaron's beard - down the  
collar of his priestly robes.*

*It's like the dew on Mount Hermon  
flowing down the slopes of Zion.*

*Yes, that's where GOD commands the blessing,  
and ordains eternal life.*

Psalm 133

