

Motivation for Unity

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

Intro:

- last Sunday morning we talk about how we are to be unified – individually, congregationally
 - our job is to preserve the unity by:
 - walking in a manner worthy of our calling
 - working together
 - treating the other members properly
 - not doing anything that would destroy unity
 - today we talk about our “motivation” to do the necessary work, so we’re unified
-
- We’re motivated to be unified because Jesus demands it
 - Jesus desires unity
 - Jn. 17:20-21 Jesus prayed for unity, hours before betrayed
 - - Jn. 17:17 unity based in truth (word)
 - motivation: Jesus’ desire, and our sanctification in truth
 - - unity commanded
 - Rom. 12:16a be of the same mind toward one another
 - Phil. 1:27 stand firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel
 - motivation: obey the Lord’s command
 - illus.: family - head, parents desire and command unity, established on truth – lies destroy unity
 - joke: girls when younger, arguing, come to me to settle
 - “You better find a solution, because if I settle it no one is going to be happy!”
 - demand unity – based on the principles taught – unity
 - We’re motivated to be unified because we want to please the Lord
 - Col. 1:10 as Jesus’ disciples, we want to please Him in all respects – UNITY
 - illus.: those who are sanctified in truth want to do everything God wills (Col. 1:10)
 - because of Jesus’ life and sacrifice and service now in heaven (describe)
 - “sanctified” set apart to God, made holy, set apart for service to God – UNITY
 - we must be unified as a congregation to carry out our work to it’s fullest extent
 - therefore we’ll do anything necessary to obey God, be unified in truth, fulfill our mission
 - illus.: family
 - raise children in the Lord
 - challenge: raise children to appreciate what you’ve done for them (in the Lord), so they want to be unified with the family
 - discipline, making them work for much of what they have, appreciate the value of \$, appreciate love of family
 - family unity: religious, moral, spiritual

➤ **Four “if” statements of Philippians 2:1**

- **Phil. 2:1** the “if” statements

- **“Paul uses four conditions in this verse, all of the first class, assuming the condition to be true”** (Robertson).

- **if** there is any encouragement in Christ
- **if** there is any consolation of love
- **if** there is any fellowship of the Spirit
- **if** any affection and compassion

- **the “if” statements set forth the motivation** for doing what Paul commands in the verses that follow

- **Phil. 2:1-5** the four conditions set forth in vs. 1 is the motivation for being unified

- **remainder of lesson:** explore the motivation for unity in Phil. 2:1

➤ **We’re motivated to be unified because of the encouragement in Christ**

- **Phil. 2:1a** What is the encouragement we receive in Christ?

- **Phil. 2:5-8** encouraged by Christ’s humble service – Lord who is more humble than all of us

- Lord who did the hard part, and gives us such an easy part to do, especially in comparison

- **Phil. 2:9-11** encouragement by Christ who is now exalted in heaven, yet serving as our high priest

- we are not alone, Jesus is in heaven helping us, so we have confidence to go to God in time of need

- **Phil. 2:2-4** encouragement if brethren with whom we are united, to serve God

- assembly, working together, stirring one another up to love and good deeds

- **Phil. 2:12-13** encouragement of doing God’s word, as He wills

- we know our lives are not in vain, if we’re doing God’s work in His kingdom – not matter what happens

- **in Christ, we are encouraged in every way, and thus motivated to be unified as brethren**

➤ We're motivated to be unified because of the **comfort (NKV) (consolation) of love**

- **Phil. 2:1a** What is the **comfort (consolation) we receive from love?**

- the result of love (*agape*) toward God and brethren and man is comfort (consolation), self and others

- **Jn. 3:16** comforted by God's love to send Jesus into the world to save us

- God will do anything for us that is needed, demonstrated by fact that He didn't withhold Jesus (**Rom. 5**)

- **1 Jn. 4:17-18; 5:3** comfort of loving God and obeying, thus being certain of our salvation

- not afraid to die, welcome death, desire to be at home with the Lord

- faith works through love (**Gal. 5:6**)

- **Phil. 2:2** comforted by brethren who have the same love for us

- devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another in honor (**Rom. 12:10**)

- hearts knit together in love (**Col. 2:2**)

- love is the perfect bond of unity (**Col. 3:14**)

- in Christ, we are encouraged and comforted; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren

➤ We're motivated to be unified because of the **fellowship of the Spirit**

- **Phil. 2:1a** What is the **fellowship we have from the Spirit?**

- **fellowship:** sharing (joint-participation)

- **Gal. 5:16-26** we jointly participate in the Spirit as they **walk in the Spirit** thus **bearing the fruit of the Spirit**

- therefore our quality of life is the best it can be on earth

- **Rom. 8:1-2, 12-17, 26-29, 31-32** blessings of walking by the Spirit

- best life on earth, victory over sin, and eternal life in heaven

- fellowship of the Spirit moves us to unified with all the redeemed

- in Christ, we are encouraged, comforted, and have fellowship with the Spirit; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren

Unity: Jesus demands it, we want to please the Lord, encouragement in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship of the Spirit

➤ We're motivated to be unified because of **affection and compassion** (mercy, NKJ)

- **Phil. 2:1** affection and compassion

- the affection and compassion we have as Christians, toward God and our brethren, motivate us to be unified in Christ

- **1 Cor. 16:14** let all things that you do be done in love

- **1 Cor. 16:22** if anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed

- **1 Cor. 12:31; 13:4-8a, 13** love we have for brethren

- in Christ, we are encouraged, comforted, have fellowship with the Spirit, and affection and compassion; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren

Summary / Inv.

- review PP

- **inv.:** do you want to be part of this incredible family called the church of Christ. . . .