

**WHAT MAKES
A
GREAT CHURCH**



**THE UNITY
OF THE BODY**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

The Church Needs To Work In Unity

Ephesians 4:1-7

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Philippians 2:1-5

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.

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

I. The Commissioning of Church Unity (vv 1-2)

A. Paul Commissioned Them to Be Like-Minded (v 2)

1. What this does not mean

2. What this does mean

B. Paul Commissioned Them to Have the Same Love for One Another (v 2)

Romans 12:10

**Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;**

I. The Commissioning of Church Unity (vv 1-2)

C. Paul Commissioned Them to Be of One Accord (v 2)

- 1. In our desire – to see Christ glorified**
- 2. In our passion – to lift up Jesus**
- 3. In our ambition to be a Great Kingdom Church**

Acts 2:42-45

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

I. The Commissioning of Church Unity (vv 1-2)

D. Paul Commissioned Them to Be of One Mind (v 2)

1. We must have the same purpose in mind

2. We must have the same result in mind

Acts 2:46-47

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

II. The Confounding of Church Unity (v. 3a)

A. Examine our motives

- 1. Doing nothing is better than doing with wrong motives**
- 2. Wrong motives usually out of self gratification or for recognition**

II. The Confounding of Church Unity (v. 3a)

B. Self Ambition Confounds Unity

- 1. Self ambition is a twin to selfishness**
- 2. Self ambition can raise up three deadly enemies to church unity**
 - a. Factionalism**
 - b. Rivalry**
 - c. Partisanship**

II. The Confounding of Church Unity (v. 3a)

C. Conceit Confounds Unity

Romans 12:16

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Philippians 3:15-16

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

III. The Completion of Church Unity (v. 3b-5)

A. Our Attitude in Service for One Another Will Determine Our Unity

- 1. We must be humble**
- 2. We must lift up others**
- 3. We must become servants of others**

John 13:15-17

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

III. The Completion of Church Unity (v. 3b-5)

B. Our Attention to Others Will Determine Our Unity

- 1. We must esteem the interests of others within the body of Christ**
- 2. We must esteem the importance of others outside the body of Christ**

“Others is the key to this passage. It is the Christian faith which first made that word others important. Why did Christ come from heaven’s glory to this earth? It was for others. Why should we carry the gospel? For others. To think of others rather than ourselves is having the mind of Christ” – J. Vernon McGee

III. The Completion of Church Unity (v. 3b-5)

C. Our Unity Gives a Picture of Who We Really Serve and Love

John 17:20-21

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

ME
OR
WE?