

**Unity is Important**  
**Philippians 2:1-4**  
**Sunday p.m. 11/10/2019**

- **Unity is the desire of Jesus**

**John 17:20-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- **Unity was the desire of Paul**

**1 Corinthians 1:10 (CSB)**

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

- ◆ **True biblical unity is worth striving for**

- **The Foundations for Unity**

**Note:** *If* means fact

- **Since we have a consolation in Christ**

**consolation** – parakleisis, encourage, comfort, support

❖ We have received comfort from Christ which is a foundation for unity

**2 Corinthians 1:3–4** (consolation)

⊛ **How often has Christ encouraged us by another believer?**

- **Since we have comfort of love**

**comfort** - incentive, persuasive

## ❖ Love is an incentive to be united and love each other

### **John 13:34-35 (CSB)**

<sup>34</sup> “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

### **1 John 3:16 (NKJV)**

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

### **Romans 5:5 (CSB)**

This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

### **Romans 12:9 (CSB)**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.

### **Romans 13:10 (NKJV)**

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

## • Since we have fellowship of the Spirit

**fellowship** - koinonia, Community, participation

### **1 Corinthians 12:13 (CSB)**

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19 (CSB)**

Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own

❖ The same Holy Spirit dwells in each child of God

❖ **The indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes us co-partners with Christ and therefore with each other**

- **Since we have compassion**

- ❖ Not a shallow compassion or worldly compassion to help others
- ❖ God showed us mercy percent in Christ, that we must do the same

- **The Guidelines for Unity**

**fulfill my joy** - fill to the top

- ◆ **How?**

**be like minded** – sick another's interest, think the same thing

**have the same love** - love for God, his work, his people

**be in one accord** - same heartbeat, same passion to be in tune with Christ

**be of one mind** – identity of ideas, harmony of feelings

✚ Today, many sing this song in church (from the musical Oklahoma)

**Oh, what a beautiful morning.**

**Oh, what a beautiful day.**

**I've got a beautiful feeling,**

**Everything's going my way.**

- ❖ The Bible tells us something different

**Galatians 6:2 (CSB)**

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (CSB)**

<sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. <sup>23</sup> Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

**Romans 12:10 (CSB)**

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor.

### **Romans 15:1-2 (CSB)**

Now we who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each one of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

#### ■ **The sacrifice for unity (3-4)**

✧ **To have unity, we must sacrifice our personal likes and dislikes, ideas, feelings and thoughts**

#### • **Nothing through strife or vainglory (3)**

❖ Contentions and factions should not happen

### **2 Timothy 2:24 (CSB)**

The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach and patient

◆ **How?**

### **Galatians 6:14 (CSB)**

But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world.

#### • **Not through selfishness, but unselfishness (4)**

❖ Not what is always best for you, but what is best for others

### **Philippians 2:19-21**

#### **Close**

❖ Is the unity of the body of Christ worth striving for?