

Sermon Title:

“A Call To Christian Unity”

Sermon Text:

Philippians 2:1-11

- *As Paul begins to develop this critically important subject, he does so by first presenting....*

I. The Underlying Basis Of Christian Unity (vv 1-2)

“It’s as though Paul was saying that since these 5 wonderful blessings are true of every believer’s relationship with Christ, then we need to take it one step further and be like Christ and demonstrate these very same virtues toward one another.”

- **It’s impossible to be in unity with the people of God if you’re not in unity with the Son of God. But if you’re in unity with the Son of God then you ought to be in community with the people of God!**
- In v 2 the phrase **“complete my joy”** or **“make my joy complete”** comes from a word in the Greek that literally means, **“to be filled to the point of overflowing.”**
- **Paul uses 4 specific expressions of unity here:** 1) **“complete my joy by being of the same mind”** - he was calling for a unity of **thought**; 2) **“complete my joy by having the same love”** - he was calling for a unity of **affection**; 3) **“complete my joy by being in full accord”** - he was calling for unity of **resolve**; 4) **“complete my joy by being of one mind”** – he was calling for a unity of **purpose**.

II. An Impassioned Plea For Christian Unity (vv 3-11)

- The Greek word that is translated **“selfish ambition”** is a word that actually means **“contentiousness or strife.”**
- The Greek word for **“conceit”** literally means **“empty pride, pride that has no purpose, vanity.”**
- The Greek the word translated **“humility”** is actually a reference to a deep sense of one’s **own littleness**.
- **Job 5:11; Psalm 138:6; 10:17; 25:9; Proverbs 29:23; James 4:6**

Oneness cannot be achieved without loneliness!

- What is the meaning of the word **“look”** in v 4?
- **It’s the worldly man who looks out for himself, but it’s the godly man who looks out for others!**
- **vv 5-11** undoubtedly comprise one of the most profound passages in the entire N.T!

“If we’re going to possess an attitude that contributes to the development of unity and oneness in the body of Christ here at Harbor Shores – then we need to fix our eyes on the ultimate example of unselfishness, humility, and self-sacrifice that are found in the person of Jesus Christ.”

- The Greek verb **“have”** is presented to us in the present imperative - that is, this is a command that is expected to have a **continuous** and **repeated** application.

- *What kind of attitude did Jesus have?* Well, this passage tells us **3** things about the attitude of Jesus:

A. **It Was A Self-Denying Attitude** (v 6)

- The word “**form**” isn’t a reference to shape or size – rather, it refers to the outward **expression** of the inward **nature**.
- What does the phrase, “*did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*” mean?

*Jesus was **unselfishness** personified!*

B. **It Was A Self-Humbling Attitude** (v 7)

- What does the phrase “*emptied Himself*” mean?
- Jesus stripped Himself of all of His **expressions** of deity, but not His **possession** of deity!
- *Matthew 20:28*

C. **It Was A Self-Sacrificing Attitude** (v 8)

- The word “**humbled**” means “*to make, or bring low.*”
- *Jesus humbled Himself to death – that is self-sacrifice **unparalleled!***

“Crucifixion was the most diabolical form of death ever invented by man! Everything about it was beyond horrible - and yet that’s the way that Jesus died!”

Conclusion:

vv 9-11 - “*9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

“How little our sacrifices, how little our acts of unselfishness, how little our suffering seems in the shadow of the cross!” (John Walvoord)