

Forgetting what lies behind

One word

Communion

Unity

Selfless

Encourage

Determined

UNITY, KNOW OR NO SELFLESS

- Philippians 2:1-11 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 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. ESV

- We presume from his letter that he is concerned about their well-being as a group.
- Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer vs 3-11
- Paul's Joy That Christ Is Preached vs. 12-19
- Paul's Life for Christ vs. 20-26
- Live as Citizens of Heaven vs. 27-30
 - Philippians 1:27-28 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, **I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ESV**
 - **Unity is a constant concern for the Church in any time and at any place.** Think about how many of the churches Paul wrote to and his passionate pleading with them to work on their unity and to avoid those things that divide.

- **The quality goes in before the name goes on!!!!**
- **Brand Names, trademarks and logos –**
- **If – Then, (If this is true, then this must result...)**
 - Philippians 2:1-2 **If** therefore 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, NASB
 - Philippians 2:1 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care — Message
 - If we bear the name we should be experiencing encouragement, love, fellowship of the Spirit, and affection and compassion **then** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- **Getting the bugs out that affect the quality:**
- 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- 3 Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. 4 Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Message
- We must shift from a “me,” “my” and “mine” mindset and focus on a “we,” “our” and “us” mentality.
- A shift away from traditional study in Psychiatry came through Abraham Maslow. Self-Actualization – he wrote “ Without exception, he found that every person who was sincerely happy, radiantly alive, was living for a purpose or a cause beyond themselves.”
 - Abraham was a man of wealth.
 - Joseph was a man who had a life with many ups and downs.
 - Jonathan was David’s best friend.
- These are all examples of a person who chose selflessness!
- **It would seem that this change doesn’t just happen by chance but by decision!**

- **The Quality that must go in:**
- Paul answers the question on his reader's minds: **“why should we feel compelled to act in this way?”** by directing them to the supreme example found in Christ.
- The name that we bear modeled something extremely important for us!
 - Philippians 2:5-8 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ESV
- We may know this in our mind but not sure we comprehend the immense battle that has been from the beginning! Think back to what was Satan's original temptation to Eve! **“you will be like GOD”**
 - Eve and Adam wanted a place equal with GOD!
- Jesus had a place equal with God but chose not to use his position but instead he chose to become a servant or slave!
- Jesus made a choice!
- We are challenged to follow his example! **We have to choose also!**

- **You have to work it Out!**
- **Shine Brightly for Christ** - Philippians 2:12-16 Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. **Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.**
- 14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.
- **I got this man!**

- **From Principle to Practice**

- Loving some people is hard - whether it's their attitude, interests, behaviors or eccentricities. Yet, without deep love for each other, we can't express Christ's love to the world around us.
 - Abraham showed a great amount of **selflessness** when it came to this potentially family crushing issue.
 - Joseph showed a great amount of **selflessness** when it came to forgiving wrongs against him.
 - Jonathan showed a great amount of **selflessness** when it came to a humbling circumstance when his inheritance was taken from him.
- Who “bugs” you? What specifically bugs you about them? Here's a test; ask yourself, “If Christ knew this person would be so annoying, would he have died for him anyway? If the answer is yes, the problem lies with you. Imitating Christ's humility means yielding my will and desire to another, even when it is painful.
- Ask God to teach you, in the power of his Holy Spirit, to accept, encourage and love those whose attitude, interests, behaviors and eccentricities annoy you. Then follow!

- The Quality of Unity is created when we put others before ourselves and we compromise.
- Unity is created when we put others before ourselves and forgive their mistakes and sins.
- Unity is when we humble ourselves and think of others.
- Unity happens when everyone is looking out for everyone else.
- It creates a 'team' or a 'family' atmosphere where everyone is taken care of and where everyone's needs are met. This creates a bond that unifies people together. Selflessness creates unity.

