



That They May Be One

PASTOR MIKE YODER • PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4



1949-90



1990



“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message,”

John 17:20

“that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.”

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

Philippians 2:3

not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**Observant siblings recognize
what they share in common. (2:1)**



For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

*If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation;
if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in
you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.*

And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

The memory of past intimacy should heal present disunity.

G. Walter Hansen



**Obedient children desire to
bring their father joy. (2:2a)**

...then make my joy complete...

He is not an aloof Apostle, untouched by the painful divisions in the church. Disunity among his friends diminishes his joy. The unity of his friends with each other will complete his joy.

G. Walter Hansen

Paul's pastoral heart, his own life and apostleship are deeply bound up with his converts' well-being, and especially with their perseverance so that they themselves will experience God's eschatological joy.



**Mature followers of Jesus choose
unity because of humility. (2:2b-4)**

There is a difference between unity and uniformity. True spiritual unity comes from within; it is a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure from without.

Warren Wiersbe

Love begins when someone else's needs are more important than my own.

Gordon Fee

Divisions can be overcome only by taking on a common yoke and pulling together in the same direction. When believers are preoccupied with their personal agenda...

they will pull in different directions and split the church into separate interest groups.

Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it's thinking of ourselves less.

C.S. Lewis

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

Our natural instinct is to make much of ourselves and little of others...

Matthew Harmon

But a heart that is being transformed by the Gospel gives evidence of a growing desire to regard others more highly than ourselves and which works itself out in tangible words and actions.

Matthew Harmon



**Our shared spiritual
blessings insist upon
shared observable unity.**