

# “United” What comes to mind?



## Philippians 2:1-4

- So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

# Philippians – The Epistle of Joy

- Paul expresses joy in the proclamation of the gospel (1:18), in Christ/the Lord (3:1, 4:4), in the day of Christ (2:16)
- In the faith (1:25, 4:1) and financial support (4:10) of the Philippian church – they were his “joy and crown” ( 4:1)

Joy or rejoice 16 times

Not a lot of doctrinal issues to address

plêroō

*play-ro'-o*

From G4134; to *make replete*, that is, (literally) to *cram* (a net), *level up* (a hollow), or (figuratively) to *furnish* (or *imbue, diffuse, influence*), *satisfy, execute* (an office), *finish* (a period or task), *verify* (or *coincide* with a prediction), etc.: - accomplish, X after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfil, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.

1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full

1a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally

1a1) I abound, I am liberally supplied

2) to render full, i.e. to complete

2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim

## Complete my joy by being of the same mind

- 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, **Philippians 1:27**
- Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. **Philippians 4:1-3**

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## Complete my joy by being of the same mind

- complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **Philippians 2:2**
- **Rome**
  - **Be of the same mind toward one another.** Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. **Romans 12:16 (NKJV)**
  - Now may the God of patience and comfort grant **you to be like-minded toward one another**, according to Christ Jesus, **Romans 15:5 (NKJV)**

# Complete my joy by being of the same mind

- **Corinth**

- I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that all of you agree**, and that there be no divisions among you, but **that you be united in the same mind** and the same judgment. **1 Corinthians 1:10**
- Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, **be of one mind**, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. **2 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV)**

- **elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia**

- Finally, all of you, **have unity of mind**, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **1 Peter 3:8**

## Jesus' prayer

- <sup>20</sup> I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one** even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one**, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. **John 17:20-23**

## Reasons to pursue unity/like-mindedness

- encouragement in Christ
- comfort from love
- participation in the Spirit
- affection and sympathy

RWP **If** (*ei*). Paul uses four conditions in this verse, all of the first class, assuming the condition to be true.

Do we have any encouragement from Christ – by his example, sufferings, faithfulness

Do we have on comfort from his love – he will never leave or forsake, nothing can snatch us out of his hands

Do we have any participation or fellowship with the Spirit who awakens us, guides us bears fruit in our lives, intercedes for us

Koinonia implies intimacy (Thayer)

Thayer *splanchnon*

**Thayer Definition:**

1) bowels, intestines, (the heart, lungs, liver, etc.)

1a) bowels

1b) the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, especially kindness, benevolence, compassion; hence our heart (tender mercies, affections, etc.)

## Complete my joy by being of the same mind

- being of the same mind
- having the same love
- being in full accord (united in spirit NASB)
- and of one mind

phroneō  
*fron-eh'-o*

2c) to be of the same mind, i.e. agreed together, cherish the same views, be harmonious

Same love for Christ and one another

sumpsuchos  
*soom'-psoo-khos*

From G4862 and G5590; *co-spirited*, that is, *similar in sentiment*: - like-minded.

RWP **Being of one accord** (*sunpsuchoi*). Late word here for the first time, from *sun* and *psuchē*, harmonious in soul, souls that beat together, in tune with Christ and with each other.

**Of one mind** (*to hen phronountes*). "Thinking the one thing." Like clocks that strike at the same moment. Perfect intellectual telepathy. Identity of ideas and harmony of feelings.



JM

Let me see if I can illustrate that. If you have a bag filled with marbles you have a certain unity. You have one bag full of marbles and all those marbles are pushed against each other, packed together. But that which binds them into unity is the container. It's something on the outside that holds them. As soon as you tear the bag, the marbles are everywhere because there's nothing intrinsic or internal to keep them together. It's purely the package they're in, the container.

But on the other hand, if you have a magnet and you put that magnet into some metal shavings, the shavings will all adhere to the magnet. Not because there is an external container but because there's an internal force. And they are pulled to each other because they are all pulled by the same force pulling through each other. And that's how the church is to be, it is not a collection of marbles in the same bag, it is people who are pressed against each other because they're all magnetized by the same force, which is the power of Jesus Christ. That's the internal unity of the church. We are pulled to each other because we are pulled through each other by the power that pulls, which is Christ.

# Actions to pursue unity/like-mindedness

## Negative

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit
- Let each of you look not only to his own interests

## Positive

- but in humility count others more significant than yourselves
- but also to the interests of others

Strife (Thayer) eritheia

**Thayer Definition:**

1) electioneering or intriguing for office

1a) apparently, in the NT a courting distinction, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts

Vain glory (Strong)

kenodoxia

*ken-od-ox-ee'-ah*

From G2755; empty glorying, that is, self conceit: - vain-glory.

Deeds of the flesh Gal 5

**James 3:14-16 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

NAW Pride competitive, humility unifying

MH "There is no greater enemy to Christian love than pride and passion. If we do things in contradiction to our brethren, this is doing them through strife; if we do them through ostentation of ourselves, this is doing them through vain-glory: both are destructive of Christian love and kindle unchristian heats. Christ came to slay all enmities; therefore let there not be among Christians a spirit of opposition. Christ came to humble us, and therefore let there not be among us a spirit of pride"

## Unity through humility

- For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. . . <sup>10</sup> **Love one another** with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. . . <sup>16</sup> **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.** Never be wise in your own sight. Romans 12:3,10,16

## Unity through humility

- I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> **with all humility** and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love,** <sup>3</sup> **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)**
- So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> **Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.** **Colossians 3:12-14 (NASB)**

## Fulfilling the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Commandment

### Love your neighbor as yourself

- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” **John 13:34-35**
- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

## Examples of “in humility” counting “others more significant than yourselves”

- Timothy

- <sup>20</sup>For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup>For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 2:20-21**

- Epaphroditus

- <sup>26</sup>for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. . . <sup>30</sup>for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me **Philippians 2:26,30**

## Examples of “in humility” counting “others more significant than yourselves”

- Paul

- <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. **Philippians 1:21-26**

## Examples of “in humility” counting “others more significant than yourselves”

- Christ Jesus

- <sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:5-8**

What about you?

