

“What the Cross Teaches Us About Attitude, Part I” Philippians 2:1-11

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“I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges” (Philippians 4:2, The Message).

In verses 1-4, Paul gives the exhortation: Be so aware of the joy, peace and ministry of others, there's no time to be self-absorbed.

In verses 5-11, Paul gives the example: Jesus, the Son of God, had tremendous rights and power, but ministry on the cross shows us how to live in humility, service and obedience – even at great personal sacrifice.

Six ways to foster church unity:

- “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ” – and you most certainly do (vs. 2:1).
- “If any comfort from His love” – and there most certainly is (vs. 2:1).
- “If any fellowship with the spirit” – and you most certainly do (vs. 2:1).
- “If any tenderness and compassion” – and there most certainly is (vs. 2:1).

“Then make my joy complete” (vs 2:2)

1. “By being like-minded” (vs. 2:2)

Philippians 2:5

I Corinthians 1:10

2. “Having the same love” (vs. 2:2)

For unity to take place, everything must be sifted through the test of love.

- Was that a loving thought?
- Was that a loving look?
- Was that a loving comment?
- Was that a loving response?

3. “Being one in spirit and purpose” (vs. 2:2)

4. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit” (vs. 2:3)

“Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you” (James 4:1, NCV).

Aristotle used the Greek word ‘Eritheia,’ translated ‘selfish ambition’ of a politician canvassing and scheming for public office by unfair means.

5. “In humility, consider others better than yourselves” (vs.2:3)

Once, Mother Teresa was asked how to practice humility. She said:

- To speak as little as possible of one’s self.
- To mind one’s own business.
- Not to want to manage other people’s affairs.
- To avoid curiosity.
- To accept correction cheerfully.
- To pass over the mistakes of others.
- To accept insults and injuries.
- To accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked.
- To be kind and gentle even under provocation.
- Never to stand on one’s dignity.
- To choose always the hardest.

6. “Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (vs. 2:4).

The essence of love is being ‘other-person centered.’