

United in Love

Philippians 2:1-11

Pastor Tony Traback

August 30-31, 2014

Take-Home Truth: God desires us (His church) to be unified in love and perspective, taking Jesus' self-giving love as our guide.

"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2 (English Standard Version)

#1: Paul encourages everyone to work toward unity.

. . . complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:2-4 (ESV)

#2: Just as we are One Body in Christ, Paul encourages us to live in such a way that our actions testify to our unity in Him.

#3: Unity is not the absence of conflict. It is being intimately connected to one another.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

#4: Paul does not want us to ignore our own needs and gifts. But he does want us to pay attention to the needs of others (i.e. consider their interests).

*Have this mind among yourselves, **which is yours** in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **Therefore** God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)*

#5: Paul points to Jesus as our example of self-giving love.

- a. Jesus “clears His schedule” to be in embodied relationship with us.
- b. He serves us.
- c. He humbly perseveres in love—so that we are reconciled to the Father and one another.

Ways to apply Paul’s words:

- If you are primarily connected at weekend services, make an effort to connect to others by plugging into a ministry this fall.
- If you are already deeply connected at Lighthouse, be the bridge people need into community.
- If you sense God’s invitation, take the risk to lead a Home Group this fall—to create a space where others can cultivate the unity to which Paul points.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)