



'Back to Basics for Believers Series'

Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 6– Christ-like Steps to Unity Philippians 2:1-4

Paul was zealous for the unity of Philippian church, and from the verses we can see the Christ-Like steps Paul laid before the believers at Philippi. He urged them to make sure the following traits were present in the fellowship:

- 1. The Trait of Consolation** – As Paul wrote to the Philippians he speaks of how that through their union with the Saviour they should find encouragement to pursue unity with each other. The very Spirit of Christ is to encourage, comfort, and strengthen believers to be in one spirit and engaged in the labours of His church. Times of real fellowship are a blessing to our hearts and we should cherish them, as well pray that they become a regular feature of the people here.
- 2. The Trait of Love** – The love of Christ should compel and stir a believer to keep unity with other believers. As Paul speaks of such love, he is speaking of a love that is selfless and sacrificial. When we think of all that Christ has done to provide a way for sinners to be reconciled to God through His death, the grounds on which forgiveness can be given. If such love, the love of Christ, was manifest in us, imagine the unity that would exist in such a church. No bitterness, no strife, no anger, no action that would seek the harm of another.
- 3. The Trait of Fellowship of the Spirit** – As the Spirit works in the heart of a believer, not only is the new believer given new life, but also the Spirit makes it possible for believers to have unity and fellowship in the gospel. Thus believers should have a deep concern one for another, and a joint life together centred on Christ.
- 4. The Trait of Compassion and Concern** – Compassion is the force that maintains His love for His people as His gracious hand aids them to persevere. Compassion for one another, and those around, will keep a healthy understanding of our purpose, to glorify God and proclaim the wonder of the gospel. Paul makes it clear that his joy will be fulfilled in the unity of the Philippian church. The request is there to not only have compassion for one another, but also a concern for one another's joy.
- 5. The Trait of Humility** – Paul speaks of the great need for humility in the church. He makes it clear that strife and vain-glory are two of the biggest threats to unity in the church. The spirit that must prevail in a strong church is that of humility or lowliness of mind.



Penzance Baptist Church
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs