

Joyful Unity in Christ
Philippians 2.1-4
Gary Duff February 23, 2025

I. What We Have in Christ (what unites us in Christ)

V1: "Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ,

if any comfort of love,

if any fellowship of the Spirit,

if any affection and mercy,

II. What Joyful Unity in the Body of Christ Looks Like

V2: fulfill my joy by

being like-minded,

having the same love,

being of one accord, of one mind."

III. Unity through Humility in Christ (Christlikeness)

V3: "*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

selfish ambition:

conceit:

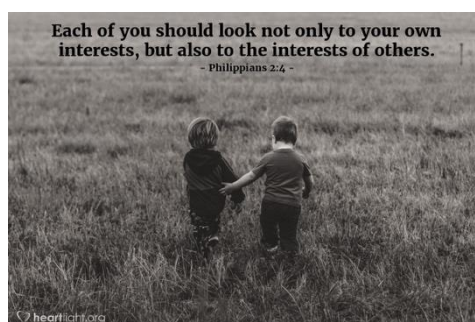
lowliness of mind/humility leads to esteeming others, which leads to joyful unity:

"The unity that Christ desires is no superficial harmony. It is a union of hearts knit together by the same Spirit, under the influence of the same love, reflecting the unity of the Godhead." Thomas Manton

We should "be severe upon our own faults, and charitable in our judgments of others; be quick in observing our own defects and infirmities, but ready to overlook and make favorable allowances for the defects of others. We must esteem the good which is in others, above that which is in ourselves; for we best know our own unworthiness and imperfections." Matthew Henry

IV. Unity Through Self-sacrificial, Christlike Love for One Another

V4: "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."



THE HEART GOD REVIVES

"The Sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:17

Proud People....	Broken People....
focus on the failures of others.	are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.
have a critical, fault-finding spirit; look at every one else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope.	are compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
are self-righteous; look down on others.	esteem all others better than themselves.
have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.	have a dependent spirit; recognize their need for others.
have to prove that they are right.	are willing to yield the right to be right.
claim rights; have a demanding spirit.	yield their rights; have a meek spirit.
are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.	are self-denying.
desire to be served.	are motivated to serve others.
desire to be a success.	are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success.
desire self-advancement.	desire to promote others.
have a drive to be recognized and appreciated.	have a sense of their own unworthiness; are thrilled that God would use them at all.
are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.	are eager for others to get the credit and rejoice when others are lifted up.
have a subconscious feeling, "This ministry/church is privileged to have me and my gifts"; think of what they can do for God.	have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have a part in any ministry"; know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.
feel confident in how much they know.	are humbled by how very much they have to learn.
are self-conscious.	are not concerned with self at all.
are unapproachable or defensive when criticized.	receive criticism with a humble, open spirit.
keep others at arms' length.	are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately.

Proud People....	Broken People....
are quick to blame others.	accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.
are concerned with being respectable, with what others think; work to protect their own image and reputation.	are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; are willing to die to their own reputation.
find it difficult to share their spiritual needs with others.	are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.
want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up.	once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.
have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"	are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.
tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin.	are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin.
are concerned about the consequences of their sin.	are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin.
are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught.	are truly genuinely repentant over their sin, evidenced in the fact that they forsake that sin.
wait for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship.	take the initiative to be reconciled when there is misunderstanding or conflict in relationships; they race to the cross; they see if they can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been.
compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor.	compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.
are blind to their true heart condition.	walk in the light.
don't think they have anything to repent of.	realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance.
don't think they need revival, but are sure that everyone else does.	continually sense their need for a fresh encounter, with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA-The above outline was presented by Nancy DeMoss during the November Fasting & Prayer '95.