

GSM

Philippians 2:1-4

I. Philippians 2:1- A call to unity!

A. **If there be**- if- Gr. **ei**- first class conditional- *If and it is the fact.*

B. **comfort**- Gr. **paraklesis**- from *para- beside; kaleo- to call*

1. This word means to call for help, assistance, and strength. This aid comforts us and encourages us. The word "comfort" comes from the Latin which means **to fortify**. The word "encourage" means **to put courage in**. God does not just pat us on the back and tells us everything is ok. He actually fortifies us and puts courage in us so we can victoriously face what is before us. It is up to us to call upon God. All we need to do is **call upon God** and He is there to infuse us with courage and strength. God does this by two main ways. These are found "**in Christ.**"

a. God comforts and encourages us by the **Word of God**- [**Romans 15:4**]- The word fortifies us and strengthens us.

b. God comforts and encourages us by **the Holy Spirit**- He is the **parakletos- The Comforter**- [**John 14:16; 26; 15:26**]- The Holy Spirit fortifies us by leading us into and revealing to us the truth- Word of God. [**John 17:17**]

c. [**2 Cor. 1:3-4**]- God fortifies us to face our problems so we can give aid and encouragement to others who are going through what we went through. We give them the Word that gave us strength.

C. **If [and there is] comfort in love**

1. **comfort**- Gr. **paramuthion**- *from para- beside; mutheomai- to speak soothingly and quietly*. This word means to come along beside someone that is upset and calm them down with soothing quiet words.

a. What will calm us down when we are upset is the love of our Father.

b. When we get upset the Holy Spirit will quietly speak to us. He will first assure us of the Father's love for us. Then He will softly speak truth to us about our situation. He is gentle in pointing out our selfishness!

c. The root of this word is **muo**- *to instruct or teach*- In these times of trial the Spirit will quietly teach us. He will instruct us in loving others.

D. **If [and there is] fellowship of the Spirit**

1. **fellowship**- Gr. **koinonia**- *participation in, sharing in*

2. We are participating in the same Spirit and spiritual nature.
 3. The same Spirit is in all Christians - **Ephesians 4:3**- The Spirit is always ministering to us to bring us into the “unity of the Spirit”.
 4. We will find disunity and strife will cease when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit. Praying in the Spirit helps in this process.
 5. If Christians would all drink from the common fountain of the Holy Spirit we would walk much more in love and unity
- E. The **Trinity** is in unity and the **Trinity** works in us towards unity-comfort in **Christ**, love of the **Father**, fellowship of the **Spirit**- The comfort, love, and fellowship of God will unite us and cause us to stand against the enemy whose goal is to divide and conquer.
- F. **bowels and mercies**- Gr. **splagchnon**- *inner parts- deepest affections* and Gr. **oiktirmos**- *compassions*
1. God has infinite affections [**plural**] for you in Christ! He gives us unending love and affection in each and every situation we face.
 2. God shows us daily compassions [**plural**]- He gives us many compassions for our many failings and sufferings.
- G. **What Paul is bringing out in the verse is that now that we have been the recipients of these things from God, let's now be the dispensers of them to others!** They are the resources we have to love others and minister to others with.

II. Philippians 2:2

- A. **Fulfill**- Gr. **pleroo**- *to cram full to the top*
- B. **my joy**- Paul could not have **full** joy until he saw unity realized in the Christian body. Such unrest should lead us to pray and seek for such unity.
- C. **like-minded**- Gr. **autos phroneo**- *same thinking*- This comes from the mind of Christ [Word of God]- [**1 Cor. 2:16**]
- D. **same love**- From our new nature- [**Romans 5:5**]
- E. **one accord**- joined together in soul- Our soul is the place where strife originates. It comes from a clash of different opinions, egos, desires, and stirred up emotions.
- F. **of one mind**- Paul in this verse is calling these saints to pull from the mind of Christ [Word of God] and the Holy Spirit nature of love inside of us to control our thinking, emotions, and will.
- G. A carnal church will be a strife filled church going in many different directions to suit the desires of each individual. A spiritual church will be at peace and be led in unity of purpose and goal- to uplift Christ and the gospel of grace.

III. Philippians 2:3

A. **nothing**- Gr. **medeis**- *not even one thing*- selfishness is like a cancer that spreads!

B. **strife**- Gr. **eritheia**- *This word originally meant to be a hireling- work for hire. This came to mean to do things for your own selfish purposes and exaltation- to make a name for yourself.*

C. **vain glory**- Gr. - **kenodoxia**- *empty boasting or glorying over oneself*- Pride of man is empty. It boasts of what he is, has, and can do. Before we can learn and walk in the "in Him" truths. **We need to learn well the "in myself" truths.** We learn in the Word of God apart from God we:

1. **are nothing**- [2 Cor. 12:11, 1 Cor. 13:2]- Apart from the love of God **we are nothing.**

2. **have nothing**- [1 Cor. 4:7]- We have received everything we have. Apart from God **we have nothing.**

3. **can do nothing**- [John 15:5]- Apart from Christ you **can do nothing**

4. It is only in Christ that we are something special [**Ephesians 2:10**], have all [1 Cor. 3:21], and can do all things through Him. [**Phil. 4:13**]

D. It is the understanding of the grace of God that will keep us from strife and empty pride. We are what we are by the grace of God and we should treat others accordingly. [1 Cor. 15:10]

E. **lowliness of mind**- Gr. **tapeinophrosune**- from tapeinos- *low lying- this word was used of low lying ground that collected water.* Keeping in mind the "in myself" truths will lead me to trust in the "In Him" truths and constantly fill me with the Spirit. When I recognize my lack, I will draw upon the resources of God. When I keep in mind the "in myself" realities then I will be patient and not critical of others in their failings.

F. **esteem one another**- Gr. **hegeomai**- *lead the way*- We should lead the way in serving and honoring others. Don't wait for others to serve you or honor you. You lead the way

1. **one another**- Gr. **allelon**- from **allos**- *one of the same kind.* We are equal in Christ as saints

G. **better than themselves**- Gr. **huperecho**- *huper- above; echo- to hold- to hold a higher position*

1. We are to lead the way in submitting to each other. We are to consider others as holding a higher position of honor and rank than ourselves. Even though God sees us all equal through grace, we should see others as having a place or rank higher than us. This is what is called having a servant's heart. Many are offended at this.

They don't want to be the servant of anyone. They are offended at the Word of God.

- a. **[Mark 9:35]**- If we are to lead the way then we must become the servant of ALL. A servant is in a lower rank than the one they serve.
- b. **[Ephesians 5:21]**- We are to submit to one other.

IV. Philippians 2:4

A. **Look-** Gr. **skopeo**- Pres. tense- *Be closely watching*. We get our word scope from this word. Be scoping out!

B. **We are to closely watch the things which pertain to others.** We need to look out for the interests of other people. This means taking a time to listen to what is going on with them. It means praying for what is going on in their lives. It means giving a helping hand when needed. This is what **vs. 3** means by esteeming others higher than yourself. It is being a servant. A servant is not self absorbed and focusing on serving themselves. They are looking on how they can serve others.

C. **Too often people get out of balance.** Either they are totally absorbed in themselves, or they totally neglect their own lives and get immersed in other people's lives. Paul is **NOT** saying that we should not watch out for and take care of our own issues. We see that by Paul's use of the word **ALSO**- "Not looking out for our own things, but **ALSO** looking out for the things of others. Paul is saying that we should not **merely** be looking out for our own interests but **ALSO** the interests of others.

D. Strife and disunity arise from selfishness or being absorbed with self. Paul is giving the recipe for peace and unity, which is our participation in God- **vs. 1**, and humble service to others. **Vs 2-4**

E. In this letter Paul is tackling the issue of disunity in the church. Paul was targeting this in his prayer concerning love and the call to strive together in one spirit, soul, and action that we find in chapter 1. In this chapter Paul continues to teach on unity, humility, and servant-hood to bring unity to this church.