

Intro: Paul knew the danger to any healthy church, is discord, conflict and division.
Unity of the church is internally compelling and not outwardly controlled.

If you take a bag of marbles all packed in together you could say they are in unity.
But they are only bound by the bag they are in.
Tear the bag and marbles go everywhere.
The unity is in the package, the container.

But take metal shavings and pick up a magnet and all of the shavings are drawn by the same power.
We are drawn by the power of Christ. Our unity is in Christ and the power of Christ.

Philippians 2: [1] If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

1. The Motives of Unity 1

Paul writes "*If there be therefore..*"
The word "if" is used as a certainty of an existing fact.
The word "if" can be used as "since, because or in view of the fact."

The word "*therefore*" draws from the preceding chapter. Paul dealt with external conflicts, Phil 1:27-30.
We are to stand fast in one spirit and one mind. We are striving together for the faith of the gospel.
In Chapter 2, Paul gives 4 reasons a church should live in unity. Paul gives a motives for unity.

A. Consolation in Christ

The word "**consolation**" is the word "paraklesis" which is a calling to ones side as an aid.
The Holy Spirit is a paraclete as He comes along side and helps; He is our encouragement.

The church has experienced help, counsel and encouragement from Christ; **Hebrews 6:18.**
When we feel sorrow, a loss or a hurt, Christ is always there.
If you lose heart you will lose unity.
What Jesus has done for us should be a incentive for unity.

Where does the world go in times of sorrow? To amusements and entertainments.
The church can go to Christ in times of discouragement and despair for consolation.
In **John 17:21**, Jesus prayed for unity.

B. Comfort of Love

Paul appeals to the Philippians experience of Christ's loving sacrifice, forgiveness and tenderness.
Paul says "since Christ loves us", there should be unity.

* Comfort comes through love. Love is full of joy.
Jesus said to His disciples "*I will not leave you comfortless.*"
Jesus would not leave His disciples without comfort.
Jesus would depart to the cross, but comfort of love would not leave.

When we lose vision of Christ's love, we lose our love for others, **John 13:34-35.**
Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love.

C. Control of the Spirit

Fellowship is a joint partnership, it is a sharing. There is no fellowship without the Spirit.

Please realize that when we were saved the Holy Spirit indwelt us; **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.

Yielding ourselves to the control of the Spirit produces unity, **Ephesians 5:18-19**.

The Holy Spirit sealed us, indwelt us, gave us earnest which is the guarantee of eternal inheritance.

The Holy Spirit fills us (Eph 5:17), empowers and enables us. The Holy Spirit has gifted us.

The Holy Spirit teaches us, produces fruit in us and strengthens us.

The Holy Spirit prays for us, **Romans 8:26-27**.

Ephesians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 12:13.

D. Compassion of God

Paul says since there is bowels and mercies.

The bowel is said to be the seat of emotion, which is deep affection, longing and innermost feeling.
Mercies are God not giving us what we deserve.

Lam. 3:22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Mark 1 :40-42 Jesus was moved with compassion upon the leper.

Jesus saw the sheep as being without a shepherd and was moved with compassion.

Hebrews 4:15, Colossians 3:12-15.

Having a sense of that compassion of Christ to you how can you be hardhearted to others?
You say "they have wronged me!" Did we not wrong Christ? How did Jesus react?

Any disruption of unity is a direct violation of relationship with God, **Psalm 51:4**.

It is saying God, I want all You can give me, but I give nothing back.

Philippians 2:[2] Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

2. The Mark of Unity

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Paul says "*fulfil ye my joy.*"

Paul is saying you can make my joy complete, not be releasing me from prison but by your unity.

Paul says, if you really care about me keep or maintain unity in the church

To fulfil is to fill it to the full. One of Paul's greatest joy's was unity in the church.

Paul is saying I am rejoicing but I could rejoice more; be in unity that will cause me to rejoice.

A. Oneness of Purpose

-Like Minded

This is to be of the same mind; all agreed, unanimous.

Paul spoke of divisions in the church at Corinth, **1 Corinthians 1:10**.

This grieved Paul, because there was no unity.

1 Corinthians 2:16 we have the mind of Christ.

In fact **Philippians 2:5** let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together except they be agreed?

Paul addressed two women that were in division in Philippi, **Philippians 4:2**.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Like Mindedness speaks of understanding.

* A union is not unity- Tie two cats tails together and throw them over the clothes line.
Look at the typical marriage. There is yours and mine!

Uniformity is not union-

The army will wear matching uniforms but fight like cats and dogs.

B. Oneness of Passion

-Same Love

Same Love speaks of the same heart. There must be unity in love.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

We must all love what Jesus loves. Jesus loves sinners, saints and scripture truth.

We must love the lost and dying, love one another and love the truth!

* We must love without partiality.

C. Oneness of Power

-One Accord

To be in one accord is to be one in soul.

* 100 pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other.

Acts 4:32

[32] And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul

Romans 12:15-16 We are to have joy together and express sorrow together.

D. Oneness of Purpose

-One Mind

To be of one mind is to be of the same intent and purpose.

To be of one mind is everyone minding one thing. An endeavor to reach the same goal.

To glorify God together!

* Conflict cannot develop when we are concerned about one interest.

In a Peanuts cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus. "These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold." "Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"

Philippians 2:[3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

3. Means of Unity

3-4

A. Strife less

Strife is selfishness, rivalry and is a prideful tearing down of others.
So proud of their opinion they cannot hear the view and opinion of others.

B. Selfless

Vainglory is empty personal glory and pride. It is a building up of the individual to prove self supreme. Everything revolves round self, **3John 1:9**. It is ego and taking eyes of the cross- **Judges 8:1**.

- * Some have no concern as to how everything else functions as long as they get their way.
- * Even when your agenda is valid, selfishness can take over and bring discord.
- * No problem is too big to solve, just people too small to solve them!
- * Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.

C. Submission

Unity is born out of humility

True humility delights in the success of others, even when it's at your own expenses.
It is regarding another more important than self, **1 Peter 5:5-6**.

Paul said I am the least of the apostles, **1 Corinthians 15:9**.

Paul said I am the least of the saints, **Ephesians 3:8**.

Paul also said he was the chief of sinners, **1 Timothy 1:15**.

If we will look out for others, God will look out for us.

Philippians 2: [5] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

4. Model of Unity

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Christ Jesus is the model of unity. Christ is our pattern.

Concl: I remember seeing a TV commercial during the 1984 Olympics.

Bob Beaman was speaking and said in 1968, I set the world record for the long jump.
I jumped 29' 2.5" that day.

For years I've enjoyed sitting in front of my TV set watching others try to break my record.
They tell me there is this new kind who might have a chance to break my record.
Well there is just one thing I have to say about that.....

We were all set up for what would come next.

Beaman's face softened and he said "I hope you make it kid."