



ἀλλήλων

For One Another

WHAT JESUS WANTS US TO BE FAMOUS FOR

“Like-Minded”

Philippians 1:27-2:11

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2*

Getting on the Same Page

The Philippian church was in crisis. It wasn't because they were being attacked from outside forces. It's because they weren't getting along with one another. They were self-centered and cliquish. They used their differences as occasions to put each other down. Paul accuses them of 'empty glory,' meaning they sought ultimate significance apart from God. And the name of Jesus was being tarnished.

Paul calls the Philippian believers to unity. He tells them they are supposed to have the same mind as one another. That is, they are supposed to think alike; have the same disposition and purpose.

But in what way were they supposed to think alike? Paul tells them that they are to be humble, regarding others as more important than themselves. This was not the way of the world. The Philippian believers were to love one another by elevating others' needs above their own. If they could all have this mindset; if they could all maintain this thinking/loving behavior, their unity would strengthen; Jesus would become more attractive to the unbelieving world.

But who or what would give them the power to be humble toward one another; to think alike? Paul says that Jesus humbled himself for us. He lost all his status for us. He leveraged all of his power and resources for our good. And if Jesus did that for us, we should do that for one another.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Discuss a time you were part of a team/group who was like-minded or unified. What was it that unified you? What challenges did you face? How were you able to stay unified through these challenges?

Study Philippians 1:27-2:11

- Observations? Questions? What was most interesting to you?
- Respond: As Christians, God is not calling us to be the same, but to think the same about Jesus...to consider others better than ourselves...like Jesus.
- Paul tells the Philippians to do nothing out of vain conceit. The essence of the meaning is 'empty glory,' or to seek significance apart from Jesus. In what ways do we seek to glorify ourselves apart from Jesus? How can this hurt our unity/like-mindedness?

Apply

- Read Philippians 2:5-8. Discuss how meditating on this should give us the same mindset as believers.
- Discuss how you can show humility to others...value them above yourself in the following areas: worship preferences, benevolent ministry, the newcomer to SBC, praying for our leaders, living out Jesus' speck/plank passage, with our spouses/kids, empathizing with someone different than us, etc.