

# Phil 2:1-13 A Pathway for Christian Unity

## He ends chapter one urging them toward unity, good things were referenced - emphasized unity

- Php 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in **one spirit**, with **one mind** striving **side by side** for the faith of the gospel,

## It is possible to live in or experience the benefits of Christ - and struggle with unity

Php 2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 **complete my joy** by being of the **same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**

- **EXAMPLE of the struggle:** Php 4:2-3 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to **agree in the Lord.** 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have **labored** side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my **fellow workers**, whose names are in the book of life.
- **COMPLETE MY JOY a call to the** same mindset -- same love -- united in soul -- oneness of purpose
- More than **outward conformity** or **doctrinal agreement**, (a rowing team - one goal, but all row the same)

Php 2:3-4 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

### THREATS TO UNITY

- **Rivalry - GK-** originally political ambition - promoting oneself over others for personal gain
- **Conceit - GK -** empty glory - pride - seeking glory when there is no substance
- **Looking upon your own interests**

### ENCOURAGEMENT TO UNITY

- **Humility**
- **Count others more significant than yourselves - choose** to value others above yourself
- **Look upon the interests of others - KINGDOM value** -flies in the face of the world's values

## The mindset of Christ was the perfect example of humility and counting others more significant

5 **Have this mind among yourselves**, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## Original intent of the verse was not a theological outline of hypostatic union - but a pathway to unity

- **Christ was the opposite of rivalry & conceit** - He did not take advantage because of his position
- **Christ was the opposite of conceit**, He instead humbled himself
- **Christ was the opposite of self interest** - a servant the epitome of an "other-centric" life

## Jesus lost nothing in humbling himself -always fearful of losing something

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

**THIS IS OUR FOCUS** - conformity complete doctrinal agreement will fall short of the unity he desires

- **Humility ... Obedience to the Father ... And becoming a servant - a great foundation for unity**