

Happily Humble

Philippians 2:1-4

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.¹

In Philippians 1:27-2:18, Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to maintain unity. The overarching command for this section is found in 1:27, “. . . *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel . . .*” In 2:1-4, he explains the basis of unity. In 2:5-11, he uses the life of Christ as an illustration of that basis. In 2:12-18, he then clarified the believers’ responsibility.

Being in a Christian community should motivate us to practice unity (1).

We are called to practice unity, not uniformity (2a).

Genuine unity is only possible where there is true humility (2b-4).

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.