

Philippians

The Joy of Participation, Fellowship and Unity

Participation in the Gospel:

- Grace**
- Joy and Unity**
- Suffering**
- Looking out for each other**
 - Lights in the world**
- Walking according to the pattern**

The Delema: To Live or To Die

1:21-24 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Unity of Spirit:

Philippians 2:1-4

¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being **of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.** ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Unity of Spirit:

Is UNITY automatic?
Causes of Disunity
How to Achieve Unity

Is Unity Automatic? – No

**Philippians 4:2 Euodia and Syntyche
Corinth**

Causes of Disunity

Selfishness or Empty Concept (Selfish Ambition)

How to Achieve Unity

Be of One Mind

Put Others First

Greatest Example of Selflessness: Jesus

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Was Jesus God?

John 1:1-3, 14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth

Colossians 1:16-18

¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

**Was Jesus God?
YES**

What Did He Do?

- **Gave up Heaven**
- **Became A Servant**
- **Humbled Himself**
- **Died**

Philippians 2:12-15


¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky


**“... work out your salvation
with fear and trembling”**

Fear and Trembling:

- **Should we be afraid of losing our salvation?**
 - **Not if we are faithful**
 - **What should we be afraid of?**
 - **God**
 - **Why should we tremble?**
 - **Recognize the price paid of our salvation**
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Remember: to be of one mind

Not the only place

- **In honor preferring one another (Romans 12:2)**
 - **Edify one another (I Thess 5:11)**
 - **Bear one another's burdens (Galations 6:2)**
 - **Do not put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way (Romans 14:13)**
 - **Strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble (Hebrews 12:12)**
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Paul's Companions In Rome
Timothy
Epaphroditus

Timothy:

- **There when church started**
- **Loyal, Paul thought of him as a Son**
- **Wanted to send him to Philippi**
- **Waiting for some development**

Epaphroditus:

- **Fellow Worker & Fellow Soldier**
- **Came from Philippi - Messenger**
- **Had been sick “to the point of death”**
- **Sending Him Immediately**
- **Esteem, Hold in High Regard**

Chapter 3: Warnings