

Philippians

The Joy of Participation, Fellowship and Unity

Unity of Spirit:

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

What Did He Do?

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

**“... 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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Paul's Companions In Rome
Timothy
Epaphroditus

Chapter 3: Warnings

Philippians 3:1-3

¹Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

²Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; ³for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Beware of the...

- **Dogs**
 - **Evil Workers**
 - **False Circumcision**
 - **KJV (Concision)**
 - **NIV (Mutilators of the Flesh)**
 - **ESV, HCSB (Those who Mutilate the Flesh)**
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Who Is This?

- **Judaizing Teachers**

What were they teaching?

- **To Be A Christian, You Had To...**
 - **Be A Jew**
 - **Follow The Law of Moses**
 - **Be Circumcised**
- **New Problem or Old Problem?**
 - **Old Problem**

What Was Their Real Problem?

- **Relying On Obedience to Law of Moses**
- **Putting Their Confidence in the Flesh**
- **Paul's Attitude - Philippians 3:4-11**

Philippians 3:4-7

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:
⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;
⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Paul's "Credentials":

- Circumcised the Eight Day**
 - Of Israel, tribe of Benjamin**
 - As to the Law: A Pharisee**
 - As to Zeal: A Prosecutor of the church**
 - As to Righteousness in the Law: Blameless**
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⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Paul's Attitude

- **Reject those things to Know/Gain Christ**
- **Obtain Righteousness**
 - **Not From The Law**
 - **But From God Through Faith**
- **Attain Resurrection from the Dead**

Jews relied on keeping the Law

- **A Reliance On The Flesh**

Can we be guilty of the same thing?

How?

- **Putting Our Confidence in the Flesh**
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Our Confidence In The Flesh:

- **Attitude: Rule or Pattern?**
 - **Assembly: Obligation or Opportunity**
 - **Worship**
 - **Receive Encouragement**
 - **Give Encouragement**
 - **Giving: Dues or Free Will Sacrifice**
 - **Study: Facts or Knowledge & Understanding**
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Paul's Attitude

- **To Know Christ, Gain Christ**
 - **Did Paul Know Christ? - Yes**
 - **Was He Done? - No**

Philippians 3: 12-14

¹² Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul's Plan of Action

- **Forgetting what lies behind**
 - **What did he give up?**
 - **What do we need to give up?**
- **Reaching Forward to what lies ahead**
 - **What lies ahead?**
 - **The Resurrection**

Philippians 3: 17-19

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Admonition

- **Follow Paul's Example**
 - **Walk according to the Pattern**

Enemies of the Cross:

- **End is Destruction**
- **Their God Is Their Appetite**
- **Glory is in Their Shame**
- **Mind Set on Earthly Things**