

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-21-07 - "The Philippi Church of Christ – More Unity"

OPEN: What are some of the funny/silly things that your family has “disunity” over? (Ex. Toilet seat up or down; what show to watch on Monday nights; thermostat temperature?)

DIG & APPLY: Phil 1:27-2:4 – “27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. 2:1 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.”

Vs. 27a - What does it mean to “conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”?

- What is “gospel of Christ”? (see how Paul defines it in 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- What “happens” in your life that tempts you to not “live a life worthy” of it?

Vs. 27b-28 – How does true unity with a group of Christ followers help you to not “be frightened in any way by those who oppose you”?

Vs. 29-30 – How can Paul suggest here that suffering for Christ is something God “grants” as a blessing, equal to the blessing of believing on Christ?

Vs. 2:1 – How have you (or have you?) experienced the 4 things listed in this verse?

- “Encouragement from being united with Christ”?
- “Comfort from [Christ’s] love”?
- “Fellowship with the Spirit”?
- “Tenderness and compassion”?

Vs. 2 – Paul basically outlines what he means by his call to have “more unity” in this verse.

Discuss as a group what it takes to...

- ...*be like-minded*. -- Like-minded about what?
- ...*have the same love*. -- Same love for what?
- ...*be one in spirit and purpose*. -- What purpose?

LEADER’S NOTE: *Please make a priority of this exercise as you facilitate your group.*

Vs. 3-4 – These two statements may be the defining statements in the Bible about what a church community that focuses on Jesus appropriately would look like.

- How do the Southwest people of Christ do these two things *well*? (Tell stories!)

PRAY: Philippians 2:5 is one of the Bible’s many “epic statements”: “*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*” Thank the Father for how much he has gotten the attitude of Christ into your family, small group, and church family...and ask Him to do it some more.