

One Another Principles in *Philippians*, pt 1

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Upper West Manhattan Church of Christ

*Unless otherwise stated, all Biblical quotations are taken from the ESV
(English Standard Version)*

Reason for writing Philippians

- Paul was in jail (1:12-13), had been about four years since he's seen them.
 - Paul had such a good relationship with these brethren. They loved and deeply cared about each other.
 - **Paul wanted to tell them that he was doing well in the Lord, share his love with them, and encourage them to press on. (2:12-13)**
- They had sent Epaphroditus with money to help Paul in prison.
 - Then Ep. got sick, and the Philippians had been worried about him. (2:26-28)
 - **Paul was sending Ep. back with this letter to thank them for their gift. (4:10-20)**
- Paul was concerned about false teachers influencing them. (3:2-4:1)
 - **Paul wanted to strengthen them to not give in and to keep their trust fully in the salvation of Jesus. (3:8-11)**

One major reason for writing we might overlook...

“I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 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.” (Phil 4:2-3)

- ✦ Troubles in the church... unrest, lacking unity
 - ✦ If Paul takes the time to address these two women specifically, several months later, it must have been a fairly big problem.
- ✦ Paul wants to address their *one another* problems.
 - ✦ Seen in a variety of verses through the book, made clear here with E and S.

Principle 1: Unified Workers

1:27-2:2

“Standing firm in one spirit”

“With one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

“Same mind, same love, in full accord... of one mind.”

Repeated words:

- ✿ Mind — thinking, focus, attention, attitude, spirit
- ✿ One — Same, unified, all together, pure

1:27-2:2

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“With one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

“Same mind, same love, in full accord... of one mind.”

Unified effort, working together (1:30)

- “Thinking the same, loving the same, everyone working together with the same focus.”

Picture of mutual caring... busy... working for the Lord with my brothers.

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the gospel”*

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Lord with my brothers.

**And why
shouldn't we?!**

- We all have encouragement in Christ, right?
- We're all comforted in the God's love, right?
- We all share in the Spirit, right?
- We have affection and sympathy for one another, right?

Principle 1: Unified Workers

No room for lukewarmness and laziness

- All dedicated to the same thing, united
- Imagine this kind of encouragement given in other contexts...
- Picture of zeal and effort and total commitment

No room for compromise

- All fully devoted with the mind of Christ on the Lord's will

No room for cliques

- Not love for some and not for others
- Shouldn't be *this* group and *that* group
- We can do this...
 - in where we sit... who we talk to...
 - in social plans we make...

Principle 2: Humble Servants

2:3-II

Think of others more important than yourself...

Look to others' needs, not just your own needs

Be like Jesus...

- He gave up everything
- He made himself a nothing
- He humbled Himself to the point of dying a terrible death.

I know a good lady in a good church...
When it's our idea...

Do we have this heart:

I'm a nobody. You're the important one.

- What happens if...
 - No one says hi to me?
 - They don't like my idea?
 - Someone has to correct me?
 - I need to correct someone?
 - I'm slighted?
 - My group is slighted?

Principle 2: Humble Servants

2:14-15

Do all things without grumbling and questioning
complaining disputing
murmuring arguing
division

- How do we behave towards each other when they're not around?

This is how we can be blameless and innocent in a sinful, backbiting world.

- Another passage that teaches how our behavior toward each other shines the light of Christ?

Principle 2: Humble Servants

- We are going to give each other reasons to complain. Don't complain.
- There will be matters we'll want to divide over (or argue about, or dispute over, or question my brother's integrity)...

Don't be selfish. Love and serve your brother.

Principle 3: Affectionate Brethren

4:I

“Brothers...” “Love and long for...” “My joy and crown...” “Beloved...”

- “You are my beloved...”
 - Sounds like a love letter
 - Paul cared so much about his fellow Christians

How did Paul come to love them so much?

Because he converted them?

Principle 3: Affectionate Brethren

1:3-8

“Praying with joy...” “Hold you in my heart...” “Yearn for you with the affection of Christ Jesus...”

Paul gives reason for this tender affection:

“because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” (v5)

“It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.” (v7-8)

- It’s the sharing in spiritual work: comforting him in prison, their work in the gospel, their acceptance of the gospel.

Principle 3: Affectionate Brethren

Can this work for us too?

Grow in our affection with each other when:

- What I care the most about is the Lord and His work... and so do you.
- We comfort one another in difficulties and serve each others' needs.
- We appreciate the sincere faith and work in the gospel we see in each other's lives.

Next week...

- ✦ Refresh ourselves on these three principles...
 - Unified workers
 - Humble servants
 - Affectionate brethren
- ✦ ...add another principle...
- ✦ ... and come back to our two fighting sisters, E and S.