



PHILIPPIANS THE SECRET TO JOY

“The Secret Formula For Unity”

Philippians 2:1-5

February 12, 2012 PM Service

1. The Right Motives Vs 1-2a

- ✓ Our Encouragement in Christ
- ✓ Our Comfort in Christ
- ✓ Our Fellowship with the Spirit
- ✓ Tenderness and Compassion

2. The Right Marks Vs 2b

- ✓ Striving to Achieve a Common Understanding
- ✓ Loving Others Equally
- ✓ Living in Selfless Harmony
- ✓ Pursuing the Same Agenda

3. The Right Means Vs 3-4

- ✓ Rejecting Selfishness
- ✓ Forsaking Empty Conceit
- ✓ Having a Humble Spirit
- ✓ Looking out for others, not just yourself

4. The Right Model Vs 5

Our Response:

1. Do you have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Great News! – you can! It’s as simple as ABC. **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. Is there a daily dissatisfaction of where you are in your walk? Is there a decreasing frequency of sin in your life? Is there an increasing love and desire for holiness?
2. Have you asked Christ into you heart, but never made it public? Have you been baptized – identified with Christ & His church through Baptism? If not, you can make that decision today & be obedient & follow through & become a part of the Bethsalem Family.
3. Are you a member of a Body of Believers – a Church Home? Without one a Christian is an orphan. Don’t just attend – step over the line today and join this family! We need you and you need us.
4. Our call is still the same today – to make Christ’s joy complete – Does your life do that? Is our Church doing that by our unity?
5. How unified do you see our Church on a scale of 1-10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Why would you rate it this way? What part could you play in making it ah higher number (To get to a ten)
6. How are you contributing to the unity of this church? How you are not? What needs to change in order to promote the unity of Bethsalem Baptist Church?
7. Can you name a time where you put the needs of others in this church family before the needs of your own? Name that time and thank the Lord for it! What are some specific ways where you could do that now?
8. May we focus on the model – perfection and ask the Lord to daily give us the mind and attitude of Christ!

PHILIPPIANS: The Secret to Joy

“The Secret Formula for Unity”

Philippians 2:1-5

February 12, 2012 AM Service

Unity is critical, in John 17 Jesus made this final plea to his disciples and to the church as well. Be one just as the Father and I are one.

It is certainly the one thing that Satan will attack us with and most of the time it is on non essentials, our preferences rather than huge theological issues. If that is the case, we need to take a step back and evaluate our walk with the Lord and make certain we are not being a stumbling block to the unity of the church.

Therefore, let's look back at what preceded it.

Here we see the formula for spiritual unity that includes three essential elements upon which spiritual unity must be built.

1. The Right Motives

Clarifies why believers should be of one mind and spirit.

✓ **Our Encouragement in Christ**

Our encouragement because of our union with Christ as well as our encouragement that comes from our Christian commitment to the Lord and each other. This exactly what the Holy Spirit does for us and in us – *paraklesis* – *paraklete* We to encourage one another with the comfort we have received.

✓ **Our Comfort in Christ *Consolation of Love***

We are comforted by Christ's love – His Agape Love – that God Love – (It is a sacrificial love) What greater comfort can there be? In our salvation experience and on daily basis, He continuously gives and we experience His love. Also, it is our love for the saints – we are called to love with Christ' love, not just our love.

✓ **Our Fellowship with the Spirit**

We are partnered with the Holy Spirit. It is that Greek word *koinonia* meaning fellowship. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and he lives and resides inside of us. We have fellowship with Him and then we also have that same fellowship with one another – not surface – but on a deeper basis. It is His Spirit that brings us

together and his desire is for us to be connected and unified – hard to be unified with someone that you are not connected to!

✓ **Tenderness and Compassion**

We are tenderly comforted by his affection (from the depths of our being) and his compassion (his mercy). Aren't you grateful tonight for His great tender mercy towards us and His great compassion for us as His children? We are again called to be compassionate and tender towards others in the body and even those outside it as well!

Our unity in Christ is not based upon us, but upon our personal, daily, and intimate walk with Him. These are things that He does for us so that we are able to walk in unity as a church family. We cannot do it on our own.

The tie in then is make my joy complete. Paul's joy was found when the church was in unity and functioning truly as the body of Christ, as He intended it to function. It really demonstrated to him that his life mattered and what he had worked and strived for was not in vain. A lot of things should bring us joy, but very few things should bring us as much joy as when the church is united and standing together. Great to be a part of a body that is at peace and united together in His Spirit!

2. The Right Marks What is meant by one mind and spirit

We see four spiritual marks or markers of spiritual unity

✓ **Striving to Achieve a Common Understanding**

Be like minded to think the same thing

Thinking right is crucial. It means actively striving to achieve a common understanding and genuine agreement.

✓ **Loving Others Equally**

Have the same love We are called and commanded to love everyone the same. We cannot possibly do this in the flesh, it is only by the Spirit we can possible do this. But it is critical. We don't give preference to anyone.

✓ **Living in Selfless Harmony**

Be one in spirit We are united. Means one-souled. It is not about me but about the other person. We don't have to see things

the same way, but in no way will we allow our differences to divide us or to hinder our service to the Lord.

✓ **Pursuing the Same Agenda**

Be one in purpose There cannot be 4 different visions for our church, there must be one. We must have the same purpose, A great commitment to the great commandment and the great commission will grow a great church.

If we are going to make a kingdom impact, we must certainly as we see here these are all intertwined, to be of the same mind, having the same love, having the spirit and purpose.

3. The Right Means (Ways)

How we truly can become of one mind and spirit.

✓ **Rejecting Selfishness**

This really is the root of every other sin. It is placing our will above God and everybody else. It is our flesh by nature. When we are all about ourselves, and our agenda and we know what is best and the most important thing is that we are comfortable and happy, we are in great trouble and in the unity is in jeopardy

ILLUS: Mistaken Identity

✓ **Forsaking Empty Conceit**

Don't live to make a good impression on others.

Basically, get rid of the pride in your life, being wise in your own eyes. Whereas selfishness is after personal goals and agendas, here this conceit is seeking personal glory and fame. It's all about me, look at me and be impressed with me and what I am doing.

✓ **Having a Humble Spirit**

The direct opposite of being selfish or conceited the true picture of Christ, having a humble, gentle spirit even as Jesus did. The humble person is not one who thinks meanly of himself, he simply does not think of himself at all! Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it. The truly humble person knows himself and accepts himself. He yields himself to Christ to be a servant, to use what he is and has for the glory of God and the good of others. If there is a quality that is needed today - humility.

✓ **Looking out for others, not just yourself**

Look out for, give special attention the needs of others. It is not that we are not to look out for our well being, it simply means though that we put others before ourselves. That is hard to do, because we want our way, right away. If someone else can fit into that schedule, more power to them.

When others hurt in the body of Christ, we hurt with them.

ILLUS: Make Me Like Joe

4. The Right Model Our Savior

✓ **He Thinks of Others, Not Himself** Vs 5-6

✓ **He Serves** Vs 7

✓ **He Sacrifices** Vs 8

✓ **He Glorifies God** Vs 9-11

Let's be reminded we are talking about unity and not uniformity. True spiritual unity comes from within; it is a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure without.

We don't everyone to be the same, look the same, etc. We are all different and Christ placed us in the body that way, with different Shapes, so the body can grow and function properly.

We must as a church family have a single mind and a submissive mind. We must allow Christ to work in us and through us to produce this. We cannot work it up, in comes from abiding in Christ daily.

How joy filled are you tonight? One of the greatest secrets that Satan wants to hide from you this morning is that joy comes when the body is in unity and that you are a part of that body. Our joy is made complete when we are part of the body, of the same mind and spirit, love and focus, and we are not just spectators in the stands.

The people who most often criticize, who don't have the right motive or carry around the right motives, are those who are in the stands.

Christ has called us today, to get out of the stands and into the game today. That we will grow up in Christ, take off the bib and put on the servant's apron and serve the body of Christ. We will no longer be content to just sit and soak, but serve and love.