

Real Unity Requires Real Humility

Philippians 2:1-4

Real unity = a focused commitment to oneness. 1,2

- ❖ Recall 1:27 = a topic sentence (*worthy conduct* started with unity), and after mentioning persecution we are back on unity (later in 4:2).
- ❖ This is a four-fold conditional statement that could easily be translated “Since...” This offers the rationale for maintaining unity.
- ❖ Paul’s joy for others, 1:4,18, 2:17, 4:1,10), cf. I Thess. 2:19, Jn. 4:36.
- ❖ Unity in NT: Jn. 17:21-23, Col. 3:14, Rom. 15:5, I Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:3ff.
- ❖ Unity defined: *same mind / same love / one in spirit / one in mind.*
What this oneness / sameness doesn’t mean:

What this oneness / sameness does mean:

Real humility = a focused concern for one another. 3,4

- ❖ Humility is described by a contrast:

NOT...

selfishness / empty conceit
your own interests

BUT...

humility of mind
one another’s interests

Note: recall *selfishness* meant to hurt Paul in 1:17 through a rivalry;
later *empty-glory* = a compound split in 2:7,11 for Jesus’ actions

- ❖ Others’ (believers) interests: I Cor. 10:24,33, 13:5, Rom. 15:1,2
- ❖ Others = *more important* (surpassing); see same ptcp. in 3:8 and 4:7
- ❖ Unity requires humility, Eph.4:3,4. See Jn. 14:12-15 before 17:21ff.



Am I making sure my decisions are good for the body of Christ or just good for me?

Am I looking for ways to meet the needs of others so that I do my part to maintain unity?