



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of December 6, 2020

Full Accord

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 2:1-2](#)

"If (1)...Then (2)..."

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you- that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel" ([Philippians 1:27](#))

"Complete" his joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

The case with Euodia and Syntyche ([Philippians 4:2-3](#))

How about WEPC? So is there any encouragement in Christ? Any comfort from Love? Any participation in the Spirit? Affection and sympathy? How does my union with Christ encourage? Have I received comfort and consolation? Is there fellowship with the Living God in the Spirit? Does Jesus have affection and sympathy?

"So he asks if there is any affection and sympathy, if you have experienced the affection, the love, the tender mercy and compassion of Christ, if there is any love and mercy for those who are in Christ [and there is!], then shouldn't you respond to God's love and mercy by showing the same love and mercy to your fellow Christians? Forgiving when you've been wounded? Loving when you have not been loved? Serving when you have not been served? Responding with kindness when you have been dealt with in bitterness and anger? Dispensing mercy when you have been dealt with unmercifully? Giving justice when you've not been given a fair shake? Do you see what the Apostle Paul is doing? He's asking you to stand back and realize what God has already given to you. And when you're asked to give in hard places, He's asking you to go back and realize the treasures that God has already given to you, and to give out of that treasury." (*Ligon Duncan*)

"The Christian life of obedience is, therefore, not a pilgrimage toward a goal, as is commonly supposed. It is a witness or signpost that *telos*, (end/goal) that has already been achieved by Christ the Lord and will be consummated in the last day by the action of God. The righteous, justifying action of God and the faith that is engendered by its powerful activity are the two effective agents that call forth the obedience." (*Fleming Rutledge*)

For Further Discussion: *Philippians 2:1-2*

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- What is Christian **unity**? How is it different from **uniformity**?
- In verse 1, Paul uses "if" in the sense of "this reality is certainly the case". He declares **four things that are true for every Christian**. What are they?
- By "**encouragement**", Paul means we have the kind strengthening God gives us from His presence. If Christ is your encouragement, **how does He impact the way you live in Christian community**?
- By "**comfort**", Paul means we have the incentive of love in our relationships. **How has the love of Jesus Christ compelled you this week**?
- By "**participation**", Paul means we have intimate fellowship, communion, and communication in the Holy Spirit. How does **the truth that you have union with Christ give you strength to love others in the body this week**?
- By "**affection & sympathy**", Paul means a love that flows from our gut, that Christ is our reason, and that we love who & what He loves. Can you think of a time when you loved something just because Jesus loved it?
- In verse 2, Paul now goes on to share four ways we **express our unity** in Christ. What are **those four ways**?
- The piling up of these four expressions is meant to **encourage the intentional practice of unity** in the church. What are some ways the **church expresses her like-mindedness & unity of love**?
- **Pray together** in light of today's passage. Thank God for the unity followers of Jesus have in the power of His Spirit. Ask God for grace to love, think, and act as one body.

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