

UNITED WITH CHRISTPHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

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, *Philippians 2:1*

I. Being United With Christ Benefits Us

- ***We are encouraged and confirmed*** – To soothe in distress and sorrow, to ease the misery and grief by cheering, calming, and inspiring hope.
- ***How?*** His love for us.
- ***We have fellowship with the Holy Spirit*** – A spiritual union between the Spirit and us. This is a supernatural “experience” that is beyond words, as we are immersed in His overpowering presence, relationship and guidance.
- ***We experience tenderness and compassion*** – Christ’s tenderness is a soft quality that is gentle, mild, delicate, and considerate towards us when we are in great need. His compassion is the trait of His agape for us that reaches for us. Compassion is the force that drives Jesus to never give up on us – even when we are in rebellion and stand opposed to Him. It is love in action.

Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. *Philippians 2:2*

II. Being United With Christ Spurs Us to Be Like-Minded

- ***Being like-minded is to be like Jesus*** – We do not just copy Jesus, but our thoughts and attitudes become His. Paul tells us, “*Be transformed by the renewing of our minds*” (Romans 12:2). The transformation of our thoughts will cause a transformation in our outer-life – our words and actions. They will look like Jesus.
- ***When we are like-minded, we will have the same love as Jesus*** – The same quality and supernatural power. This “Jesus Love” will overcome our own dislike of others, and our own selfish interest.
- ***When like-minded, we will be on in spirit and purpose*** – The Holy Spirit creates spiritual union between believers. He melts and molds the heart of the believer to the hearts of other believers. They become one in life and purpose – all focused upon the Lord and His purpose. There is no “us” vs. “them”, no gossip, rumors, cliques; nothing that would tamper with or disturb the fellowship of the Spirit in the church. Our purpose is to glorify Christ and further His kingdom.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 2:3-5*

III. United With Christ Causes Us to “Do” Christ

- ***Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit*** – Those with selfish ambition will talk up difference, be jealous and envious, desire for position and power, form cliques, cause conflict.

and demand their way. Vain conceit (Greek: empty glory) is glorifying yourself without higher principle or purpose.

- ***In humility consider others better than yourselves*** – Humility (Greek: to be low in mind) is an understanding and attitude of your proper low position in relation to God. It is the opposite of pride and ambition. When we are humble, we will lay aside our selfishness and treat others with respect, honor and courtesy.
- ***Look out for others' interest as well as your own*** – When united with Christ and humble, we are more concerned about or as concerned about the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others as our own. We are encouraging, self-sacrificing, giving, kind, generous.

How are you doing in looking out for the interest of others?

What is your "interest rate"?

How do you score?