

Philippians 2:1-2; Recipe for Unity

When Paul heard/saw the *Macedonian vision* (Acts 16:9), he went from Troas to Samothrace, then on to Neapolis, and finally to a *leading city* of Macedonia, Philippi (a Roman colony). There he met Lydia (Acts 16:13-15), and unfortunately for Paul, several jailers, (Acts 16:16-40). This *sets the stage* for his later, *prison epistle* (1:7) to the church there. Though *unsure* of his own life (1:19-26), he sought to *encourage* and *console* the Philippians in their *fellowship* to greater *affection* and *compassion*.

Let's look a little closer, then, at 2:1-2.

First of all, notice some specific words:

- **Encouragement-** (*paraklesis*) a *calling near* for *comfort* or *refreshment*.
- **Consolation-** (*paramuthion*) a *persuasive, comforting address*
- **Fellowship-** (*koinonia*) *joint participation, intercourse, community; the share one has in anything*
- **Affection-** (*splagchnon*) literally *bowels* (heart, liver, lungs, intestines, etc.); *seat of tender affections, compassion, kindness; heart in which mercy resides*
- **Compassion-** (*oiktirmos*) *compassion, pity, mercy*

Now, how do you get there? What are the *ingredients* that make this *cake*?

- **Have the Same Mind-** “Common knowledge” sometimes gets a *bad rap*- even deservedly so; but this *good common knowledge*, 1Cor.1:10. We don't have to agree on politics, vanilla or chocolate, Ford or Chevy, etc. But we must agree on *the gospel, the word of the cross*, for it is the *power of God*, 1Cor.1:12-19. One definition of *phroneo* is to *cherish the same views; be harmonious; agreed together*, cf. Rom.12:16
- **Maintain Same Love-** Common heart; cf. v.3-4; cp. Eph.5:28-30; 1Tim.1:5; 1Cor.12:12-27; 13:1-7. The *love* that is to be *maintained* is *agape*- the highest form which is *as God loves*; it is *love of the* (at times) *unlovable*; it is the love that *establishes a value* rather than *requiring one*, cf. Rom.5:8.
- **United in spirit-** (*sumpsuchos* is a combination of *sun* {*together with*} and *psuchos* {*inner life, self*}; thus, being *united in spirit*). It's not just our *minds* and *hearts* that are to be *united/harmonious*, but our very *spirits*, cp. Col.2:2,19; and 1Sam.18:1, “*the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.*”
- **Intent on one purpose-** (*phroneo* {*to set one's mind*} + *heis* {*one*}); thus to set *one's mind* on the *purpose* of **oneness**, or *unity*, cf. Eph.4:1-4; such requires the setting aside of *self* and *selfishness* in all its forms, cf. Phil.2:3-4.

Most would love the *encouragement, consolation, fellowship, affection, and compassion* of v.1. But are we willing to have the *same mind, maintain the same love* one for another, be *united in our spirits* (as the *innermost* of our *selves*), and become *intent on oneness*? The *loner* who insists they're “just not a *people* person” will never get there. The one who only *comes* or is *involved* for “what I can get out of it” will never get there. The real question is, “Will you?” To *eat the cake* of v.1, we must follow *the recipe* of v.2!