**Finding Grace**

**Partakers of Grace in Unity**

“Yet Paul’s purpose in writing goes even further. He is above all concerned that the Philippians continue to make progress in their faith (1:25). While there were no doubt conflicts within the congregation (notably that of Euodia and Syntyche, 4:2), the Philippians appear to be a healthy congregation, in contrast to the troubled groups in Corinth and Galatia. Can they then relax and rest? Paul’s answer is an emphatic no. The world is too perilous, and the gospel too glorious, for them to be content with past achievements (3:12–16). They must follow Paul’s example and ‘press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus’ (3:14).”

3 actions of people who wish to live and serve in harmony with one another

**I. Be Unified by Reflecting on All You Have in Common – 2:1-4**

**Philippians 1:21** - *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

**Philippians 1:27** - *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel…*

A. Consider what we share in Christ

**Philippians 2:1** - *Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion…*

B. Learn to play spiritual “same-same”

**Philippians 2:2** - …*make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

C. Let the gospel humble you

**Philippians 2:3** - *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves…*

“It should be abundantly clear that without humility we cannot be the exemplary Christians God has called us to be. In turn, one cannot put on humility if he doesn’t first realize areas where he has sinful pride. Pride lies behind every sin and especially behind strife and contention (Proverbs 13:10).” Stuart Scott, “From Pride to Humility,” page 24

D. Prioritize the interests of others

**Philippians 2:4** - *…do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

**II. Be Unified by Developing the Mind of Christ – 2:5-8**

**Philippians 4:13** - *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

A. You can choose to think the way He did

**Ephesians 4:23** - *…and be renewed in the spirit of your mind…*

**1 Peter 1:13** - *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

B. He did not hold tightly to His position

**Philippians 2:6** - *…who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped…*

**John 1:1-3** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

C. He emptied Himself

D. He humbled Himself

* By becoming obedient to the point of death
* Even the death of the cross

**Matthew 26:39** - *...”O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*

**III. Be Unified by Focusing on Eternity – 2:9-11**

A. God has highly exalted Him

B. God has given Him the name that is above every name

C. The day will come when every knee will bow to Him

**Philippians 2:11** - *…and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*