

The Essence of Being a Church—Part 2
“The Execution”
Philippians 2:1-4

I. **The P_____ to Be a Church (v. 1)**

- a. **Therefore** = “*conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*” (Phil. 1:27)
- b. God always gives the Indicative along with the Imperative to let us know that we aren’t powerless to do His will (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:3-4)
- c. These are First Class Conditional Sentences, meaning they aren’t questions, but are instead statements of fact in the author’s mind.
 - i. NOT “if this is true?” but “since this is true!”
- d. Paul breaks these spiritual realities into two groups:
 - i. **In Christ**
 1. **encouragement** of His salvation & **consolation of His love**
 - ii. From the Holy **Spirit**
 1. **fellowship, affection, & compassion**

II. **The P_____ of Being a Church (v. 2)**

- a. **Unity!**
 - i. **being of the same mind** (cf. Rev. 7:9-12; John 17:11-23)
 1. Diverse but unified by purpose to glorify God and delight in His presence.
 - ii. **maintaining the same love** (cf. Rom. 2:11-16; 12:10; James 2:1-7)
 1. There is no partiality with God and there should be none among His people.
 2. We are love everyone in the church as Christ has loved us!

iii. **united in spirit**

1. **sympsychos (σύμψυχος)** = “being united in soul” or “harmonious”
2. we are united not by our shared interests or circumstances, but by the power of the Holy Spirit

iv. **intent on one purpose**

1. (**phroneō / φρονέω**) refers to our “thinking” or “thoughtful planning”
2. Glorifying God is the unifying lens we must view everything through in the church (cf. Eph. 4:1-4)

III. **The P_____ of Being a Church (v. 3-4)**

- a. Negative: ³ **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit**
 - i. Selfishness & conceit are the default sinful nature of man (cf. Rom. 3; Gal. 6:3)
- b. Positive: **but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves**
 - i. Humility is the virtue at the heart of all Christian virtues.
 - ii. Paul may have coined/invented this compound Greek term **tapeinophrosynē (ταπεινοφροσύνη)** = “lowliness of mind” (cf. Acts 20:19; Eph. 4:2; Col. 2:18, 23; 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5)
tapeinós (ταπεινός) + **phrénós (φρενός)**
“low” or “lowly” “mind” or “heart”
 - iii. True Christian Humility comes from understanding the Gospel.
 - iv. A spirit of pride towards others, indicates a lack of humility before God (cf. 1 Peter 5:5-6; Prov. 16:18)
- c. Negative: ⁴ **do not merely look out for your own personal interests,**
 - i. Self-love & self-fulfillment are unbiblical (cf. Jer. 17:9; James 4:1-3)
- d. Positive: **but also for the interests of others**
 - i. Put others first as Christ did for you! (cf. Phil. 2:5-12)