

Joy for the Journey - A Study of Philippians

“God’s Prescription for Unity”

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Philippians 2:1-4

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Introduction:

- A. Both history and experience tell us how hard it is for people to _____ with each other.
- B. For the better part of a century, many of the leaders of our country have been saying that the answer to all our problems is not found in _____.
- C. The question I would like to raise is: Where did _____ come from?
- D. If we are nothing but a decaying piece of matter in a decaying universe and nothing more significant than that, how does it follow that we should live a life of _____ toward _____?
- E. Where can we find the help we need to improve and fix our fragmented world?
Answer: It is found in an understanding of who _____ is, who we are as God’s _____, and what _____ God has given us for life and for well-being.

I. _____ for Unity (2:1-2)

- A. You will notice that verse one contains for “_____” statements.
 - 1. In our language, it usually conveys _____, but in the Greek grammatical form it expressed _____ - rhetorical way of saying “_____.”
- B. Important underlying principle: All Christian response and duty flows naturally from God’s _____ and _____ toward us.
- C. The unity that Paul appealed to is described in three ways.
 - 1. It includes being _____ - united in _____.
 - 2. It includes having the same _____ - united in _____.
 - 3. It includes having the same _____ and purpose - united in _____.
- D. This kind of unity is not _____ - unity in the midst of _____.

II. _____ for Unity (2:3-4)

- A. Selfishness is the root _____, and the cause of selfishness is _____.
- B. To keep “self” in check, we must put away selfish _____ and vain _____.
- C. To keep “self” in check, we must practice _____.
- D. To keep “self” in check, we must place _____ ahead of our own.
- E. The greatest example of all was _____.

Conclusion:

- A. God has called us to unity - in the _____, in the _____, and in the _____.
- B. The Parable of the _____.
- C. Unity in the world is only possible when we practice J.O.Y. = _____ first, _____ second, _____ last.

Answer Key: Intro.A. get, along. B. religion. C. values. D. love, others. E. God, creation, instructions. I. Motives. I.A. if. I.A.1. doubt, certainty, since. I.B. goodness, kindness. I.C.1. like-minded, mind. I.C.2. love, heart. I.C.3. spirit, purpose. I.D. uniformity, diversity. II. Methods. II.A. problem, pride. II.B. ambition, conceit. II.C. humility. II.D. other’s, needs. II.E. Jesus. Concl.A. church, home, world. B. Long, Spoon.