

5 Self-Less

Series: Living with Less

Philippians 2:1-4

March 25, 2018

In today's Selfish driven society becoming Self-Less can be a difficult assignment. The New Testament teaches that believers are to be Unified!

Selfishness creates Disunity!

Self-Lessness leads to Unity!

Ephesians 4:1-6 Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. ² Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, ³ and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. ⁴ You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

Notice that The Church is to “**Preserve The Unity of The Spirit.**”

It is through the Spirit that we are One with God.

Living with Less Self should be the goal of every believer! This morning you will discover how you can become Spiritually Unified with other believers through being Self-Less in our study of Philippians 2:1-4.

Philippians 2:1-4 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy

by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

There are Four If's in verse one. We don't see it in the English translation.

I. **Four Realities** that lead You to Spiritual Unity! (1-2a)

A. You have an Advocate in Christ if there is any encouragement in Christ, (1a)

Encouragement = paraklesis Comfort, Counsel, Exhorter. These are the same qualities of The Holy Spirit.

B. You have Grace in Love if there is any comfort from love, (1b)

Comfort = paramuthion Consoling (Love),

Consoling Love is that which The Lord grants the sinner in The Grace of Salvation!

Jesus continually bestows on believers, who in turn show love for fellow believers. That demonstrates Gratitude for God's Love for them. Paul told the Corinthians that it was Christ Love for him that made him so devoted to the Lord and the truth as to appear insane.

2 Corinthians 5:13-14 If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

C. You have Fellowship in The Spirit (1c) if there is any participation in the Spirit,

Participation = koinonia Communion, Relationship

When Adam sinned the human race died Spiritually.

You must be Born Again! John 3:3

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

D. You have Mercy in Christ (1d) if there is any affection and sympathy,

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

II. Four Rationales that lead You to Spiritual Unity (2b)

A. Think The Same Way by being of the same mind,

B. Love for One Another having the same love,

C. United Together being in full accord

By definition this includes Personal Ambition or Agendas, Selfishness, Hatred, Envy, Jealousy, Bitterness...

D. Intent on One Purpose and of one mind.

This is the Full Circle of Unity!

One Mind–One Love–One Spirit–One Purpose!

III. Five Reasoning's That lead You to Spiritual Unity (3-4)

A. Reject Selfishness (3a) Do nothing from selfish ambition

➤ Selfishness creates Disunity!

➤ Self-Lessness leads to Unity!

B. Reject Self-Glory (3b) Do nothing from... conceit,

Arrogance, Pride.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **glorify** your Father which is in heaven.

C. Embrace Humility (3c) but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

This is The **Opposite** of Pride.

Humility is a **Dominant Virtue**.

➤ **True Humility Submits and Obeys**
“I know I’m not worthy so **I won’t do it!**”

➤ **False Humility Submits and does not Obey**

“I know I’m not worthy but **I will try and do it!**”

The **Apostle Paul** viewed himself as being unworthy to be an Apostle yet **He obeyed** and served as an Apostle.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, **unworthy to be called an apostle**, because I persecuted the church of God.

False Humility says I am unworthy which amounts to nothing more than **Legalistic Pride**.

D. Don’t Limit Yourself (4a) Let each of you **look not only to his own interests**,

Expand your interest, passion, and agenda. Your Ministry, Church, Life itself goes beyond you as an individual.

E. Expand Your Efforts (4a) but also to **the interests of others**.

The last **two principles** deal mostly with **Relationships** between Believers. Especially those working together in **Ministry**.

Among other things Looking out for the interest of others requires Believers to:

Romans 12:15 **Rejoice with** those who rejoice, **weep with** those who weep.

Galatians 6:2 **Carry** each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 14:19 & 21 So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. ²¹ It's a good thing not to eat meat or drink wine or to **do anything that trips** your brother or sister.

Several years ago, when our Student Ministry was very active, one of the older leaders of the group wanted to rename the Student Ministry The HOBO's.

HOBO is an acronym for **Helping Others Before Ourselves!**

The Students approached me for permission to change their name. I thought it was Inspiring so I let change.

Well you can probably guess that the name HOBO did not go over very well with some of their parents as well as some of the other adults in the Church...

Living Self-Less begins with coming to Jesus and adding The Holy Spirit within you!

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone **hears my voice and opens the door**, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Open The Door

Praise Team Takes The Platform