

THE BELIEVER'S ROLE IN PROMOTING SPIRITUAL UNITY - PART 2

Philippians 2:3-8

FAITH BUILDERS

MOTIVATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL UNITY (2:1)

Encouragement in Christ

You should pursue unity because of the encouragement and relief you have received in your union with Christ

Consolation of love

You should pursue unity because of the consolation and comfort you have received in the display of God's love towards you

Fellowship of the Spirit

You should pursue unity because you experience the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who promotes unity and peace in the body of Christ

Affection and compassion

You should pursue unity because of the deep affection, compassion, and mercies you have received from the Lord

MARKS OF SPIRITUAL UNITY (V2)

Being of the same mind

You pursue spiritual unity by actively striving to have common understanding and agreement with fellow believers according to the mind of Christ

Maintaining the same love

You pursue spiritual unity by intentionally loving all fellow believers as an act of the will and seeking their well-being

United in spirit

You pursue spiritual unity by being knit together in harmony with fellow believers based on common desires, passions, and ambitions

Intent on one purpose

You pursue spiritual unity by seeking and maintaining singleness of attitude and purpose with fellow believers

MEANS OF SPIRITUAL UNITY (V3-4)

Do nothing from selfishness

You pursue spiritual unity by having neither actions nor attitudes that reflect a desire for serving yourself in pursuit of a personal agenda

Do nothing from empty conceit

You pursue spiritual unity by having neither actions nor attitudes that promote personal glory

Humbly regard one another as more important than yourselves

You pursue spiritual unity by being genuinely humble and demonstrating in attitude and action that others are more important than yourself

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests

You pursue spiritual unity by not only looking out for your own personal interests and needs

Look out also for the interests of others

You pursue spiritual unity by looking out for the interests, perspectives, and needs of others

MODEL FOR SPIRITUAL UNITY (VV5-8)

- We are to have the attitude that was in Christ (v5)
- Christ left His exalted position for our benefit
 - He existed in the form of God (v6a)
 - He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (v6b)
 - He emptied Himself (v7a)

Divine glory

Independent divine authority

Voluntary exercise of some of His divine attributes

Eternal riches

His unique, intimate, and face-to-face relationship with God the Father

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 - He existed in the form of God (v6a)
 - He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (v6b)
 - He emptied Himself (v7a)
 - He took the form of a bond-servant (v7b)
 - He was made in the likeness of men (v7c)
 - He was found in appearance as a man (v8a)
 - He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death (v8b)
 - He was even willing to die on a cross (v8c)

You pursue spiritual unity by imitating Christ, the ultimate example of humble self-denial, self-giving, self-sacrifice, and selfless love for the benefit of others

CLOSING

- Spiritual unity in the church is a big deal
- Spiritual unity comes from within, not via external coercion
- We pursue spiritual unity by focusing on others rather than ourselves
- We pursue spiritual unity by imitating Christ