

Series: Striving Together For the Faith

**LET EACH ESTEEM OTHERS
BETTER THAN THEMSELVES**
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Text: Philippians 2:3

Philippians 2:3

³ *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Introduction:

One of the greatest dangers facing the church today is an attack on the authority of the Word of God; general coldness and indifference to biblical truth and God's standards of righteousness.

That then affects the unity of the church.

It can cause disruption, weakening and even the destruction of a church.

As we read of the early church in Acts there are some things that made them effective in their work for the Lord.

Note some of those things:

The Bible says that they were of one accord.

Acts 1:14

¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Because of this unity they:

- Prayed with great faith
- Preached with great power

Acts 2:41

⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

- Enjoyed great fellowship

Acts 2:42-46

⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple,

and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

- Experienced great growth

Acts 2:47

⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Paul was concerned about this problem in all of the churches that he ministered too and he spoke of the problem in each of his letters to these churches.

Today we will note three elements that are necessary for unity in our church.

Note.

1. LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH STRIFE OR VAINGLORY (VS. 3)

Philippians 2:3

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Remember strife keeps bad company.

1 Corinthians 3:3

³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and **strife**, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Strife is joined with envy, division, and carnality.

It is also name as one of the works of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, **strife**, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

James tells us where it comes from.

James 3:14-16

¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and **strife** in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where envying and **strife** is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James says this comes from the devil.

If unity is to continue then “Nothing Should Be Done through Strife and Vainglory”. Note also:

2. EACH ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN THEMSELVES (VS. 3)

Philippians 2:3

³ *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem other better than themselves.***

Certainly this is a different philosophy to self-esteem.

The great push of our day is to build up our self-esteem.

Have self-confidence.

But note if unity is to remain there must be an esteeming others better than ourselves.

Esteem for others grows out of love.

Love for God will result in our loving others.

Love enables us to forget the faults of others.

Quote:

“Remember when you build on a fault you can expect an earthquake eventually.”

Love for others enables us to look for the best in others.

This love will also cause us to care about the needs of others.

Philippians 2:4

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Notice lastly if unity is to continue we must:

3. HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST (VS. 5)

Philippians 2:5

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Here is the key to it all.

The mind of Christ:

- Makes us humble instead of hateful
- Makes us giving instead of greedy
- Makes us selfless instead of selfish

We learn about the mind of Christ from His word

We see the mind of Christ at the cross

- He laid aside His glory; how can we seek our own glory?
- He humbled Himself; how can we elevate ourselves?
- He became a servant; how can we desire to be served?
- He was obedient to death; how can we do less?

Close:

A.W. Tozer, in his book, *The Pursuit of God*, tells us how to gain greater unity. "Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. May we be in tune with our Savior!