

## Fulfilling Joy as Believers

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Toby DeHay, August 25, 2022

Association Annual Meetings / Philippians 2:1-4

This passage encourages the local churches to Fulfill Their Joy as Believers and to walk unified.

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### **Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup> *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Let me start by thanking you for your love of each other, the Saints found in the Kentucky, and of your mission board staff at the KBC.

I want to thank you as well for your CP giving and highlight some of what you've accomplished working with the other churches through the state. Together, Green Valley gave just shy of \$500,000 through the CP!

This is important because your giving of \$47,000 when toward new churches and planters like Jake Davidson in Oak Grove, Boo Smith in Manchester, and Derek Logsdon in Bowling Green.

You worked together to provide over \$6,000 to help Sunrise Children's Services care for kids who were in situations that were horrendous.

You provided \$46,000 toward Christian Education in Kentucky at Oneida Baptist Institute and CCBBC. Did you attend an SBC seminary? Because of your giving students today are paying \$48,000 less than they would at a non-SBC school.

Last year you gave \$112,000 to keep and send new IMB missionaries to the field. Because you give, they NEVER have to come home to ask for more money.

Thank you for your gospel witness.

Thank you for your love for your local church.

Thank you for commitment to make disciples of the nations.

Thank you.

Today I want to spend a little time in Philippians to encourage you as Paul encouraged the church in Philippi. I'm not relating myself to Paul and I'm not currently being persecuted for my faith to the point of being imprisoned, but I do want to encourage you with the words of scripture as you seek to continue on the mission to which the Lord has called.

These folks in Philippi are dear to my heart as they represent a church that was planted on Paul's first missionary journey.

**Acts 16:14-15 NKJV**

<sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

**Acts 16:25 NKJV**

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

**Acts 16:30-34 NKJV**

<sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Notice what Paul was doing here in Philippi: Sharing the gospel and making disciples!

- He went where the people were in order to find a person of peace. Friends, where are the lost people in your ascn? Is there a pocket of people in your context who are particularly open to the gospel? Are you actively looking for the person of peace?

- Paul evangelized in his situation. His situation was jail. You might not be going to jail tomorrow for the sake of the gospel, but what is your situation going to be? A visit to Wal-Mart, the doctor, or out to eat? We can actively evangelize within those contexts.
- Paul actively make disciples of those he led to the Lord. He was out in the harvest AND he walked with the new believers, helping provide them the basics of the faith and enabling them to grow in the Lord.

As we look back to Philippians, we see that chapter one highlights our Joy in the Lord.

Joy in Prayer (3-11)

- They worked as partners. (3-8)
- They valued godly righteousness (9-11)

Joy in Adversity (12-30)

- It helps move the gospel forward (12-18)
- It exalts Christ (19-26)
- It encourages the Saints (27-30)

*Anders, Max. Galatians-Colossians. Vol. 8. Holman New Testament Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999.*

**Philippians 2:2 NKJV**

<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

## Be Like-minded

I sort of chuckled when I read this phrase.

Sometimes we are not so ‘like-minded.’”

We are known to fight, argue, and call one another heretics regarding secondary issues.

Other versions translate this as “agreeing wholeheartedly,” or “are in agreement.”

Friends, if we can't live in first tier theological unity in our churches and associations, the **‘transformative power of the gospel will come into question. As a result, the gospel message may lose credibility among unbelievers.’**

*John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), [Php 2:2](#).*

A little later in the epistle, Paul says,

[Philippians 3:15](#) (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore let us, **as many as are mature**, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

He goes on to use the same language with those who are openly fighting.

**Philippians 4:2 NKJV**

<sup>2</sup> I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Paul calls them out and says, ‘be of the same mind in the Lord.’

We are of the same mind because we are striving toward the same thing!

Friends, we are of the same mind as believers in Christ:

- In the Good News of the gospel
- In the training and making of new and mature disciples.
- In the giving to the poor in our communities.
- In the love of our brothers and sisters in our Commonwealth and around the world.

We have the same mind and...

## Have the Same Love

Let us look at Christ's example for love:

### **John 13:34 NKJV**

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Let's be realistic, we all have different personalities and may or may not be best friends. I had a church member tell me one time, "I simply don't like you." She was telling me something I already knew. We don't have to do this either, but we do need to be charitable and love one another.

Telling someone "we don't like you" generally displays open sin and unforgiveness.

Paul is not talking about our personalities, whether we agree on the end times, how to regard a certain day, or which Bible translation to use.

He's calling the Philippian church, and subsequent ecclesia's to have the same love.

Pastors, churches, members, when we have the same love for sister churches we are excited when they are reaching their community with the gospel.

The same love causes a church in Bowling Green who is evangelizing in a sister church's neighborhood to send people seeking a church home to the sister church in the neighborhood instead of their own.

The same love sees traffic jams in the mountains of E. KY as so many church members are helping to provide flood relief.

The same love allowed a Hispanic church in Mayfield to open their doors and become a staging area for their communities and sister churches during the Dec/Jan W. KY tornadoes.

The same love allowed for a church to send an elder and 20 of their most faithful and giving members to a neighboring sister church who was struggling and in need of help this year in Warren Ascen.

We have the **same mind, have the same love**, and he tells us to...

## **Be of One Accord, of One Mind**

I think I like the NIV version of this phrase the best:

[Philippians 2:2](#) (NIV84)

<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being **one in spirit and purpose**.

One commentator said, “it denotes the elemental and inviolable union...of married couples, and also points to a higher union with the Lord.”

*Ethelbert Stauffer, “ἓν ἦν,” ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–), 435.*

Green Valley Association, when we work in one spirit and purpose or of one mind, we aren’t pleasing the Apostle Paul, but we are pleasing Jesus.

**Philippians 2:5 NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

How might you and your church be a better partner to your sister churches today and this coming year?

Is there any sin you’ve been harboring in your heart toward another brother or sister?

Maybe you haven’t verbalized a “I simply don’t like you,” but you’ve withheld fellowship, partnerships, or funds.

Today I want to both encourage you toward repentance toward any sin as well as continued and greater unity for the sake of the gospel and the Kingdom of God.