

Scripture: God's Law (Ex. 20) - Hebrews 11:1-6, 32-40 – 12:1-4
Singing: 179:1-4 – 170:1 – 187:1-4 – 371:1-2 – 238:1-3

Let's Study Philippians (27)

CHRISTIAN UNITY IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

I. Christian unity is to be our aim II. Christian unity is not uniformity

I. CHRISTIAN UNITY IS TO BE OUR AIM

A. The subject of unity is prominent in Philippians: 1:9; 27; 2:1-4; 3:15-17; 4:2

1. Why is Christian unity so important among God's saints?

a. consider Eph. 4:30-32; 1 Cor. 11:17-18

B. God's saints are in many ways united

1. We are united in the core doctrines of 'Five Solas' & TULIP (Phil. 3:8-11)

C. Yet God's saints can still be *otherwise minded* (vs. 15) yet *united*

1. Context is about reaching goal to be Christlike (vs. 12-14)

a. what was Paul's method of reaching forth for this goal? (Gal. 2:20)

b. what is Paul's direction for us: *to be like minded with him* (17)

2. Yet not everyone is on Paul's page on *how to reach this* (15b)

a. all saints have similar hunger

b. not all saints are sufficiently diligent about satisfy this hunger

D. How did Paul deal with these *otherwise minded*?

1. Patience toward them and confidence toward God: 15c

II. CHRISTIAN UNITY IS NOT UNIFORMITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

- A. The apostolic teaching in vs. 16 is one of the wisest directions by the King
1. Despite seeing some things different (vs. 15), we are to follow God's Word
- B. Christian unity will therefore flourish when we realize it is not *uniformity*
1. We need to accept (as Paul did) otherwise minded Christians who know of no other Name given under heaven (Acts 4:12)
 2. We need walk by the same rule (16b)
 - a. to walk defined
 - b. the same rule defined
 3. Christian unity is: *In things essential, unity; in things non-essential, liberty but in all things charity!* (Witsius)

When God speaks about church unity, He speaks of unity not at the expense of truth but on the basis of it.

Unity must be ordered according to God's holy Word,
or else it was better war than peace. (Hugh Latimer)

I am quite sure that the best way to promote union is to promote truth.
(Spurgeon)

The way to the union of Christians is not through the work of committee rooms.
It is through the personal union with the Lord. (W. Temple)