



**SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, May 20, 2021**

**Scripture: Philippians 2:1-2**

**TITLE: The Call for Unity**

A number of years ago, I was able to do some white-water rafting while in Brazil. White-water rafting is a blast. But there’s something that the guide will tell you: “When I tell you to paddle a certain way, do it. When I tell you to work together, I mean it. If you can act like you have one mind and one purpose, we’ll make it through the rapids safe and sound.” And he was right. The moment we started to do it our way, and at our rhythm, we had problems.

Well, Paul may have made a great rafting guide, because he has some similar words for us today in Philippians 2:

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? <sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Phil. 2:1-2, NLT)

Now, one of the benefits of our 5-minute format is, we can study the Bible line by line, and verse by verse. One of the troubles is, we can forget the surrounding text or context of what Paul is saying. So as a reminder in the last few verses, Paul has encouraged these believers to live as citizens of Heaven while on Earth, and do so in unity – one mind and one spirit.

And that’s where we pick it up in Philippians 2. What this translation misses is “Therefore.” Because of this reality, then we should look forward to and pursue encouragement in Christ, comfort in His love, fellowship in the Spirit, and tender and compassionate hearts. When we are unified as the true church, these things are the fruits. But when our minds and spirits are in discord, the church is weakened.

And then, in verse two, Paul provided us four essential marks of spiritual unity: being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, and intent on one purpose.

According to Philippians 4:8, we, as the body of Christ, are called to focus and rally around “what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” That is what our minds should be on.

Our love should be equal, pure, selfless, and God-driven.

Our unity in spirit results in true care, compassion, concern, and charity amongst believers.

Our one mind and purpose is to be committed and united in the pursuit of attaining the mind of Christ: To be like Christ while glorifying God.

What Paul has challenged us with is no small task: the unity of mind and spirit. This is only possible when we live by the power of His Spirit.

So here's my challenge for you today: Take a few minutes and find out where there is a break in the unity of your mind and spirit with the body of Christ. Trust me, we all have an area. I know I do. But then, ask the Spirit for help to focus on truth, on His Word, on attaining the mind and life of Christ.

Remember, friend, God saved you on purpose and for a purpose. And when we live this calling together, we are prepared to win the day.