

Sermon Reflections

United for the Resurrected Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11)

Summary: God calls us to be a humble church united in exalting the resurrected Jesus. Remember, Paul is giving counsel in how to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel so we will be united in striving for the gospel, no matter what our circumstances are (Philippians 1:27-30)

1. Our shared blessings in Christ should motivate us to be unified. (v. 1)

- Five specific examples of how God relates to us because of the gospel are mentioned: encouragement in Christ, consolation of love, fellowship of the Spirit, affection, and compassion. How has Christ encouraged or consoled you (think specifically of His word - promises, examples, future glory - and His people - brothers and sisters in GBC - and how either may have helped you in a circumstance you have recently faced)? Has anyone done something that made you feel like family? Do you feel like God has affection and compassion toward you? Why (or why not)?

2. If we are Christians, because of what Christ did for us and what the Spirit is doing in us and how God relates to us, we should have a shared mindset. (v. 2)

- God loves us, and our love in return should mean we value what He values - His word (the Bible), His people (the church), His mission (the gospel). At GBC this is summed up in the four “E’s” — Expository ministry, **Elder** leadership, **Engaged** membership, and **Expanded** mission.
- How are you or could you be supporting and expanding these aspects of this local church?

3. Selfless humility is the way we will remain unified. (vv. 3-4)

- We are called to put away selfishness and think of others, seeking their good. Look back at section 1 - how have you encouraged or comforted someone in the body at GBC? What have you done to make someone else feel like family? How have you expressed affection or compassion toward someone?

4. Jesus is our perfect example of selfless humility. (vv. 5-11)

- Jesus did not “claim” His right to remain in heaven as God, but chose to come to earth as a man, to live the perfectly righteous life we could not (because of our sinfulness), to suffer and die the death we all deserve to die, and be raised to life so that we could be forgiven and saved. This is the ultimate example of humility. What “rights” can you sacrifice to be a better witness for Jesus? When was the last time you did not sacrifice your right to something and you feel like you would have been a better witness if you had?

5. What is the difference between unity and uniformity?

- Have you ever (unintentionally or on purpose) led others to believe that uniformity was more important, or as important, or the same as – gospel unity? What are the essentials of our unity? In this unique time we have been challenged to evaluate our core beliefs and make sure that we haven’t given more importance to some of our preferences than we should have.

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.”