



PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Unity and Joy

SO [THEREFORE]

- Chapter 1
 - Paul's affectionate heart & joyful prayer for Philippians
 - Paul's joy in the advance of the gospel
 - Paul's joyful hope, life or death
 - "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel..."
 - "with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"
 - "not frightened by opponents"
 - "granted to you..." to "suffer for his sake"

IF THERE IS... COMPLETE MY JOY

- Verse 1 Disclaimer:
 - Not 100% sure of precise details
 - Commentaries disagree
 - Will offer multiple possibilities
 - Will show you where I landed
 - Maybe vague on purpose?
- Big picture IS clear:
 - Paul is giving 4 reasons to have unity in the church

IF THERE IS... COMPLETE MY JOY

- Any encouragement in Christ,
 - Exhortation?
- Any comfort from love,
 - Whose love?
- Any participation in the Spirit,
- Any affection and sympathy...

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Phil 1:3-8

³ I thank my God in all **my remembrance of you**, ⁴ always in every **prayer of mine for you** all making **my prayer with joy**, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**. ⁷ It is right for **me to feel** this way about you all, because **I hold you in my heart**, for you are all partakers with me of grace,^[d] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how **I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus**.

IF THERE IS... COMPLETE MY JOY

- Any encouragement in Christ,
 - Exhortation?
- Any comfort from love,
 - Whose love?
- Any **participation** in the Spirit,
 - Fellowship/partnership
- Any affection and sympathy...
 - Whose?
 - For whom?

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- Any comfort from love,
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- Any affection and sympathy...
 - Whose?
 - For whom?

IN OTHER WORDS

- You have good reason to be encouraged in Christ, so focus on that rather than being unhappy about the little things that drive you apart...
- If I have comforted you by loving you with the love of Christ, then return the favor to me...
- If you are really joined as one body through the Spirit...
- If you care about me (deep down in your bowels)...

...COMPLETE MY JOY

- Implication:
 - Paul's joy currently incomplete, but almost complete
 - Consider Paul's circumstances
 - What does this tell us about Paul's joy?



...COMPLETE MY JOY BY...

- Being of the same mind
- Having the same love
- Being in full accord
- And [being] of one mind

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Noun

State of being
(not an action)

“Unity”
adjective



...COMPLETE MY JOY BY...

- Emphasis – Unity, Unity, Unity, Unity!
- It's about true unity of being
 - Not (just) outward actions that appear unified

...COMPLETE MY JOY BY...

- Same mind
 - What should the “same mind” be set on?
- Same love
 - What is the “same love” for?
- Full accord
 - What does full accord look like?

DO NOTHING OUT OF

- Selfish ambition
 - “Factions” or Partisanship
 - Literally what a Greek politician does to get elected
 - Leading/developing a faction to get a position of power and respect
- Conceit
 - Empty Pride, not based on truth
 - What is the truth about ourselves?



HUMILITY

- Humility
 - What does our culture say about pride?
 - What does our culture say about humility?
 - Direct contrast with “conceit”
- Count others more significant
 - Esteem or honor
 - Direct contrast with “selfish ambition”
 - It should be ok to not be in charge or recognized

INTERESTS

- Looking to own interests assumed
 - Not condemned
- Must also look to the interests of others
- Mark 12:31 - “The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

FOR THOUGHT

- How well does Paul's description of Christian unity describe your heart?
- Where is the source of your joy? Are you relying on something to bring joy that ultimately can't do that?
- Are there any actions or attitudes that you (we?) need to repent of?