**No Matter What – A Study In The Book Of Philippians**

**~Philippians 2:1-11 – How To Have Unity With Others~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* We are jumping down to **Philippians 2**. **Philippians 1:19-30** has some great things to say.
* **Phil. 1:21** was Paul’s mission statement. He desired to be with Christ but as long as he was here, he would help others. At the end of **Philippians 1** he reiterates the need for church unity.

**How To Have Unity With Others**

**Practical steps to unity – vss. 1-4**

* Paul uses several words to describe how we can have unity as churches.
* The **first** word is found in **vs. 1**. It is the word “encouragement.” It means to encourage and confront.
* The **second** word in **vs. 1** is the word “comfort.” We need to cheer each other on.
* The **third** word in **vs. 1** is “participation.” It means sharing in each other’s lives.
* The **fourth** set of words is “affection and sympathy.” Show kindness, mercy, and compassion.

**Living out unity with one another – vss. 2-4**

* **First**, “Be of the same mind” **(vs. 2)**. We are headed in the same direction. We set aside preferences.
* **Second**, we are to “have same love” **(vs. 2)**. This is a love that puts others above ourselves.
* **Third**, we are to be in “full accord.” **(vs. 2)**. We are united, with one purpose.
* **Fourth**, be unselfish **(vs. 3)**. Selfish ambition, a word we saw last week, describes someone who will do what they have to get their way. They are contention, putting themselves above others.
* **Fifth**, we are to have “humility” **(vs. 3)**. We must take care of ourselves, but see God for Who He is and as we compare ourselves with Him we put others first (seen in the word “significant.”)
* **Sixth**, we will “look out” **(vs. 4)** for others. This means we see how others are doing. Do they need help? Do they need encouragement? This does not mean we are not concerned about ourselves.

**We must have the same attitude that Christ had – vss. 5-11**

* **Vs. 5** tells us to have the same mind (attitude) that Christ had, that of being a servant. We can do this because of our relationship with God through Christ.
* **Vss. 6-7** talks about what theologically is known as the “kenosis,” which has to do with Christ emptying Himself of His glory before coming to earth. See **2 Cor. 8:9**.
* The word “form” in **vs. 6** means that Christ was the exact likeness of God. He was God. See **Jn. 1**.
* The idea of Jesus not counting equality with God “a thing to be grasped” **(vs. 6)** is because Jesus was still God while on earth. He did not lay aside His Deity when He came to earth.
* He added humanity to His divine nature.
* He did not have to try to hold on, or retain, or hold tightly His Divine nature. He was always God.
* **Vs. 7** tells us He “emptied Himself.” He laid aside His prerogatives (Mounce). He laid aside His glory and place in heaven and came to earth. His role and status changed, not His nature (Grudem).
* He came to earth to the Father’s and His will. His plans all lined up with God the Father’s.
* Jesus was All-knowing **(Jn. 2:24)**. He performed miracles and some through His own power **(Jn. 6:36; Jn. 10:25; Mt. 9:28)**. He chose to not use all of His Deity, if we could put it that way, while on earth.
* He also did what the Father asked and had shown Him **(Jn. 5:20)**.
* He took on human form and became a servant **(Phil. 2:7).** See **Mk. 10:45; Jn. 1:14**.
* He died for our sins **(vs. 8)**, was raised and returned to heaven and one day every knee shall bow before Him **(Phil. 2:9-11)**. See **Jn. 17:5**, where Christ received the former glory He had in heaven.