

Living in Christ:

Living in Meekness and Unity

Scripture Passage

"Therefore if [there is] any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind. [Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV)

Commentary

Paul asks believers to set aside any personal issues for Christ's sake and the Gospel. He knew the some of the greatest temptations would come at the hands of those close to the Philippians. Appealing to the great blessing believers have in Christ, Paul encourages us to focus on others. Surely, this will be possible if we meditate on our position in Christ.

To know Christ is everything! What else matters when compared to an eternity with Him? The world starts to lose its attraction when you think about it in that light doesn't it.

Are you experiencing the manifest presence of God's love in your life? Do you have fellowship with His Spirit? Then it should be possible for you to set aside your own interests.

Paul is not saying it will be easy. No, that is why he brings up the comfort of love and fellowship of the Spirit. He knows this is a difficult task. We all have had numerous disappointments. When we expect people to act in a loving way, and then see them selfishly abuse their friends and family, it demands our greatest love.

Would you think about this though? Christ died for the ungodly! When the Son of God suffered on the cross, He did so for wretched, selfish, sinners as we were before salvation. Therefore, it is hypocritical to hold someone to a standard higher than Christ does. That doesn't mean we excuse sinful behavior, but we had better be able to forgive it on Christ's behalf. Notice what Jesus says on this matter.

"Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. "And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took [him] by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very

grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.'" (Matthew 18:21-35 NKJV)

Father, we expect forgiveness from you, and we know You expect it from us. Forgive us when we fail to live for eternity and hold on to our petty issues. We know that we should have the same mind as Paul had, and be willing to work together for the salvation of others. Let us not be terrified by our adversaries, but boldly proclaim your truth in the face of all opposition, amen.