

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:1-11

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:1-11

AS THE BODY OF CHRIST WE HAVE ACTION TO TAKE

Philippians 2:1-4

Paul's prison letter to the Philippian Church calls for UNITY
(Philippians 1:15-18, 2:3-4, 2:14)

What would cause disunity in the Body of Christ?

Different BACKGROUNDS

Problem ATTITUDES

"Each one of you should look not only to your own interests"

Philippians 2:4

CAN ANY GOOD COME OUT OF CONFLICT?

Philippians 2:5-11

FOUR ACTIONS TO BUILD THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. You can defuse COMPETITION

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit..." Philippians 2:3

"There must be no competition among you" Philippians 2:3 (Jerusalem Bible)

"What causes fights and quarrels? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something and don't get it." James 4:1-2

Conflict in the Body of Christ is caused by COMPETING DESIRES

2. You can delete **CONCEIT**
"Do nothing out of...vain conceit..." Philippians 2:3

"Don't do anything from a cheap desire to boast" Philippians 2:3 (GN)

Conflict in the Body of Christ is caused by **PERSONAL EGO**

3. You can decrease **CRITICISM**
"...in humility consider others better than yourself" Philippians 2:3

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself...it is thinking of yourself less"

Conflict in the Body of Christ is caused by failure to **VALUE AND RESPECT OTHERS**

4. You can demonstrate **CONSIDERATION**
"Each one of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"
Philippians 2:4

Conflict in the Body of Christ is caused by being **INSENSITIVE TO OTHERS NEEDS**

WHAT CAN MOTIVATE US TO TAKE SUCH SELFLESS ACTIONS?

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:5-11