

# Achieving unity, love, and “one mind” (Part 1)

Phil. 2:1-30

4/7/19 by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Series: What is a Disciple?)

Village BIBLE Church – Why we “Teach the Truth from God’s Word” (2 Tim. 2:15)

Providing disciples with tools for interpreting Scripture

- **Literary Context** – how does it relate to passages around it?
  - 1:1-8 = Encouragement
  - 1:9-30 = Admonishment #1 – Balancing [Christian] love, [biblical] knowledge, [Spirit-led, prayerful] discernment
  - 2:1-30 = Admonishment #2 – A Submitted Mind – Walking in Unity
  - 3:1-21 = A Spiritual Mind

Learning what a disciple is in Philippians 2:

- Submitting the mind to something that is counterintuitive

➤ How does the structure of the text inform the meaning?

- I. **Importance** of ***Koinonia***. (v. 1)  
1:27b I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit**, with **one mind striving side by side** for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28a</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents.
  - A. Encouragement must come from **Christ**  
“Christ suffered and died for us... we are His, [and] we are under his love, protection, etc.” (R.C.H. Lenski)
  - B. Comfort must come from **love**
  - C. Fellowship and participation with the church [which] must come from the **Holy Spirit**
- II. **Essentials** of [*Koinonia*] (fellowship participation together with the Holy Spirit) (v. 2-4)
  - A. Being of the same **mind** (2:2)  
“same mind” from Greek  $\text{φρονεω}$  (Phroneo) = “minding the same”  
“...that your love may abound more and more, with **knowledge...**” (1:9b)
    - i. Having the same **love**
    - ii. Being in full accord (“**one-souled**”)
    - iii. Being of **one same** mind

“same mind” from Greek  $\tau\rho\omicron\nu\epsilon\omega$  (Phroneo) (as in 2:2a)

Greek  $\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ , (Heis) = “one”

Literally “Being of one same mind”

B. Counting others more **significant** than yourself (3)

i. Not from **rivalry** (cf. 1:15 = same GK word)

1:15a Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry...

1:18b ...whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

ii. Not from **conceit** = empty pride (cf. 1:18 = for show)

iii. In **humility**

C. Looking to the interest of **others** more than **self** (2:4)

III. **Examples** of Koinonia and Christian love, unity, and single-mindedness (2:5-30)

A. **Christ's** example – counting others more significant than yourself (2:5-11)

B. **Paul's** example – ready to be “poured out” like a drink offering (2:12-18)

C. **Timothy's** example – genuinely concerned for the welfare of the church at Philippi over and above his own interests. (2:19-24)

D. Epaphroditus' example – nearly died for the work of Christ in support of Paul (2:25-30)

➤ What is the author's (Paul's) emphasis as revealed in the structure?

1) The definition of Christian *Koinonia* as fellowship through **participation** with other believers in the church by the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

2) The importance of *Koinonia*

3) The elements of *Koinonia*

4) Examples of *Koinonia*

*Koinonia* is not an optional part of the Christian life based on self-perceived needs.

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