

Philippians 1:27-2:4 – The Mind of Christ Regarding Unity

In thinking about these verses of Philippians, remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (2:5). These verses reveal the attitude toward unity which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. Think about how having the mind of Christ can improve our own attitudes.

First, some questions we didn't get to in the last class:

Philippians 1:27-30

- 1) What are some characteristics of a citizen of heaven implied in verse 27? What are some privileges of citizenship from verse 29?

- 2) In what ways does Paul emphasize the need for unity? Why is unity so important?

- 3) How does the situation faced by citizens of a colony apply to us as Christians? What should our attitude be when confronted with opposition and suffering? What encouragement can we take from verses 27-30?

- 4) Should we expect to suffer as Christians? Should we worry if we aren't suffering for Christ? See John 15:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:12.

Philippians 2:1-4

- 5) What are the four "if's" in verse 1? Does "if" in this case indicate any doubt or uncertainty? How else could the word be translated?

6) Verses 2-4 tell what things would fulfill Paul's joy and make it complete. What one word would you use to summarize each of them?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

7) What are some things one might do out of selfish ambition or conceit? Give an example from chapter 1. How can we avoid this?

8) What does "counting others better" than oneself mean? How do we accomplish that? What will that do in terms of unity among Christians?

9) Does verse 4 mean that we should attend to everybody else's business rather than our own? Explain.