**one thing – wk3 – One Mind**

**Often was in jail – this time 4 yrs in prison, 2 in Israel / 2 in Rome – from one jail to another. A lot of time to think – and write… Prison epistles, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (later – possibly 2 Tim). He missed his friends and missed the road.**

**A lot of time to mope, sulk, and get bitter… but he didn’t.**

**One the darkest places of his life – awaiting possible execution - What does he write about – Joy! – A lot!**

**In prison / dreams washed away… but I rejoice because God is using this to pave the way for others to know Jesus.**

**Ch1 - Finding Joy in trials & suffering - Instead of Why God? Ask – now what, so what, & guess what - for no matter what – we win!**

**Today we pick up where we left off - Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, (I may not get out – I may die – this may be the time you ear form me) conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. (Whatever happens - let me hear your life reflected Jesus!) Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, (let God deal with them) but that you will be saved—and that by God.**

**“One spirit – one mind” What’s the big deal about unity?**

**1 - We are stronger together – v27**

**v.27 - “Conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel… then, I will know you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one…”**

**We challenge, encourage, and sharpen each other. Our relationships directly affect our life choices.**

**\* Stronger to resist temptation – to resist foolish choices.**

**\* Stronger in times of struggle – 59 one another’s…**

**2 – We are braver together – v28**

**v.28 - “…contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.”**

**I can be brave – when I know you have my back. I can face opposition – health problems –accusers – those that try to bring me down. You make be brave/ bold! Together in unity we are the voice of God loud.**

**Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, (True definition of Christianity – one who believes on him and suffers for him – around the world is a daily reality) 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (Paul says - look at my life… rest assure you will have trials – but says remember - we have each other!) Philippians 2:1** **Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, (If you have ever been encouraged, comforted, loved, or given compassion by Christ… then do this for me…) 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.**

**Do this for me… if I never get a chance to hug your neck again – do this. This would fill me with joy… get along, be in unity. Have one spirit and be of one mind – it produces joy.**

**3 - Our joy is complete together**

**2:2 - …make my joy complete by being like-minded… being one in spirit and of one mind.**

**What that means = we bring richness and joy to each other’s lives. Alone we are selfish and think of ourselves – together we laugh more, grow more, and mature more. “You complete me.”**

**Ps 133:1 - How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!**

**Philippians references to the mind, or mindset - 16X**

**A self-centered mindset suffocates joy**

**A God-focused – other-focused mindset, unleashes joy**

**Paul tells us what unity looks like… but first – What unity is not:**

* **It is not about liking the same things (music, movies, hobbies…)**
* **… about looking the same (hair, age, clothes, tattoos, etc.)**
* **… about doing the same things (politics, sports, religious practice)**
* **… about agreeing on everything (theology (unity in the essentials)**

**We do need to agree on the majors – just not the minors**

**Philippians 2 gives us a – If, Then – scenario**

**Philippians 2:1-2 - 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,**

* **IF. . . \* God has done anything for you**
* **THEN . . . I challenge you to do this**

**2 - then make my joy complete (chara (khar-ah'); joy, calm delight. Joy is not up one minute and down the other. It is a consistent, spirit-filled calm. It’s found and experienced in the consistent presence of God.) by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. (This tells us two things)**

**If you are in unity – then this happens… What unity looks like:**

**\* Unity has a clear unified sense of direction**

**“…being like-minded… one in spirit and purpose…”**

**It’s important to be on the same page - going in the same direction. Clearly knowing who we are as a Christian and as a church.**

**Church is very fragile – they rise and fall just as fast – from the leadership to the people we must be in one spirit and purpose.**

**“a house divided cannot stand” Mark 3:25**

**Unwavering in our mission (Local and global missions, church planting, mission of the Vive – to know him and make him known**

**\* Unity has an authentic mutual love for each other**

**“…having the same love, being one in spirit…”**

**We might disagree on the minors – but we hold true to the majors and no matter what we love each other – committed to loving each other.**

**“the same love” - A love that is reciprocal – does not just take – but gives of itself too – that is how you know you are in unity. A love for Jesus / a love for his church / a love for people.**

**Next verses are some of the toughest to live out - Phil 2:3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but in humility…**

**\* Unity has a totally different way of looking at life**

**It is moved by different motives - Unity checks our heart.**

**- The alternative – selfish ambition, conceit, rivalry = the worlds way**

**Unity is a heart issue – humility is a trait of true unity.**

**Why am I doing this; is it for me, to pick up a girl, settle some guilt with God, meet an obligation, a break from the kids…?**

**Announcement: I am proud to announce that I am now humble! My problem is I’m often not humble. I think more highly of myself…**

**Honestly, most of what we do is selfishly motivated - What’s going to happen to me - in it for me – will I benefit – will this affect me? How many of you would say you often think this?**

**GK word for Humility here - tapeinophrosune (tap-i-nof-ros-oo'-nay); modesty, humility of mind, lowliness of mind – to put yourself lower**

**\*\*\* The world says look out for self – God says humility**

**OT Isaiah 15 – An Archangel in heaven decided - I’m sick of this – I want to be like God - he grasped for something that did not belong to him to be like God – and God cast him down. When he grasped for it he fell…**

**Satan took that same philosophy into the Garden of Eden - Form of a serpent - you can be just like God - They grasped for it - and the minute they did, they fell. They wanted to be self-centered - all about them**

**The moment we try to grasp what does not belong to us, we fall out of the presence and power of the joy of the Lord.**

**Chew on this – Thoughts about selfish Pride**

1. **Pride is demonically inspired - its roots are sinful with Satan –**

**Humility is God inspired and is a miracle when it takes place**

1. **Pride compares self to others - Humility compares self to Jesus**
2. **Prides leads to arrogance – Humility leads to confidence**
3. **Pride is about independence – Humility says we are dependent**

**Then what started as a change in the way we think results in this… Phil 2:3-4 … in humility consider others better than yourselves. (the way we think) Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (the things we do)**

**\* Unity places others first**

**Great sign of unity is when we actually put others ahead of ourselves. Not just think about it – but do it. Unity makes sacrifices for each other.**

**Unity humbly serves the needs of others. Best seat, first piece, closer parking… it says, I put your needs above my own.**

**I think of the people who serve in our church, who sacrifice time, energy, convivence - for you. We serve arm in arm in unity.**

**It sacrifices personal desires – I think of senior adults who place the next generation before themselves – music, style, clothes…**

**True unity can get uncomfortable - I think of those who walk in arm thru struggle & failure. Habits and hardships… we stand together!**

**Paul joy is made complete when we humbly serve each other and look out for each other.**

**The next part - Phil 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

**Attitude & like-minded from same Gk word – *Attitude: phroneo* *(fron-eh'-o)* to exercise the mind, set affection on, be single-minded**

**Many times, our doctrine in Jesus might be right, but our attitude in Jesus is wrong**

**What is your mindset? If your mind is set on yourself all the time – your pursuits – looking out for number one… it will be hard to be in unity with others – and serve others.**

**Roses are red, violets are blue, I’m a schizophrenic and so am I.**

**There are times when we are impassioned for God – then become selfishly motivated – spiritually passive – and joy leaves immediately.**

**James talked about this danger of double mindedness – *James 1:2-8 - ‘A double minded man is unstable in all he does.’-* Unfortunately, that’s where many live**

**Here’s THE BOTTOM LINE . . . Follow Jesus’ Example**

**Phil 2:5 Your attitude (mindset) should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

* + **Notice the Cost**

**Phil 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (Controversial word found only once in the bible - harpagmos (har-pag-mos') to plunder, rob, rape) 7 but made himself nothing,**

**Jesus was the very nature of God in the flesh, yet never used his authority to abuse us or take advantage of us – his mindset was humility. The most humble person to ever live – and he was God**

**7b …taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (The incarnation – God with meat) 8 And being found in appearance as a man, (The cost – became a man for the rest of eternity) he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! (The cost – he allowed himself as that man, to be arrested, stripped, tortured, and murdered – and felt every blow!)**

**His cost was priceless – nothing short of everything.**

**Phil 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

* + **Notice the reward -**

**Phil 2:9-11 -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. (This is the exaltation)**

**2nd person of the trinity became a man – humbly emptied himself – became a servant – even to death – and now because of that his name is above every name – Jesus!**

**We too are exalted in our humility…**

**James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. / Luke 14:11 - For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. / 1 Peter 5:6 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you. / Luke 9:48 For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.**

**Different groups have different philosophies of life:**

* **Greece, taught be wise, know yourself.**
* **Rome, be strong and discipline yourself.**
* **Education says be resourceful, expand yourself.**
* **Psychology says be confident, assert yourself.**
* **Materialism says be possessive, serve yourself.**
* **Pride says be superior, promote yourself.**
* **Religion says be good, conform yourself.**
* **But the Lord Jesus Christ says, "Humble yourself!”**

**A Great Paradox in God’s plan - Greatness is never a measure of self-promotion, but always of self-abandonment.**

**The path to greatness and incredible profound relationships is found on a road called “humility and Servant-hood”**

**We look to cross to see his mindset - his humility rescued our souls**

**As Paul told us - Philippians 2:2 -…then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.**

**Let us as walk like-minded, in one spirit and one purpose – with the same mindset of Christ.**