

#### **1.** THE PLEA FOR UNITY: Like-Minded Kindred Spirits

**Philippians 2:1** 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, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

- Five Incentives for pursuing Unity Α.
  - 1) the encouragement of being united with Christ
  - 2) the comfort Christ's love brings
  - the fellowship that the Holy Spirit creates among believers 3)
  - the tenderness and compassion that believers experience 4)
  - fill up MY joy 5)
- Four Descriptions of Unity Β. "be like-minded" "have the same love" "be one in spirit" "be one in purpose"

#### 2. THE PATHWAY TO UNITY: A Selfless Servant Mindset

**Philippians 2:3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

- "Unity-Killers" Α.
  - A competitive spirit "selfish ambition" •
  - A proud heart "vain conceit" ٠
  - A self-focused mindset "look not only to your own interests" ٠
- "Unity Helpers" Β.
  - A humble heart *"in humility"* ٠
  - An honoring attitude "consider others better than yourselves" ٠
  - An others-oriented outlook "look ... to the interests of others"
  - Adopting the Mindset of Jesus "Your attitude should be the • same as that of Christ Jesus"

#### The Mindset of Christ — Others Before Self!

## 3. THE PICTURE OF SELFLESS SERVANTHOOD: JESUS!

**Philippians 2:6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

# **7 STEPS DOWN TO OUR LEVEL**



## 4. THE PROMOTION OF THE SERVANT: Name Above All Names

**Philippians 2:9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### **BIBLE READING PLAN**

□ Sunday: 2 Corinthians 9

- Thursday: 2 Corinthians 13 Friday: Ephesians 1
- Monday: 2 Corinthians 10 Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 11
- Saturday: Ephesians 2 Sunday: Ephesians 3
- Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 12
  - **Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor** New Life Church, Gahanna/Feb. 1 & 2, 2014