

WISDOM FROM GOD'S WORD

Joy in Jesus Christ

Unity in the Christian Church: The Means of Unity
Philippians 2:3-4

Truth: Church unity develops when Christians are humble in mind, honor others above self, and seek the interest of others, not just their own.

Christian joy: choosing to respond to external circumstances with inner contentment and satisfaction, knowing that God will use these experiences to accomplish His work in and through our lives.

Church unity: knowing the mind of Christ Jesus for our lives and the life of the church, and working together in ministry through the spiritual gifts He gives us.

1. Six principles through which Christian unity becomes a reality in the church:

- Avoid selfish ambition [in-fighting; contention],
 - Avoid conceit [self-seeking; personal ambition],
 - Be lowly in mind [humility],
 - Esteem others better than self [honor others over self],
 - Avoid looking out for one's self interests [promoting personal concerns], and
 - Looking out for the interests of others [promote the concerns of others].
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2. Lowliness of mind.

- Rejecting a superior attitude over others.
 - Cancels out contentiousness and self-seeking attitudes.
 - Romans 7:24 • 1 Timothy 1:15
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3. Concern for the interests of others.

- Colossians 1:18 • 1 Corinthians 12:20-25
 - Matthew 20:25-28
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