Pressing Onward

A Study in Philippians

Philippians 2: 1-5

*Verses 1-2*

In these opening verses Paul is intentionally trying to motivate the Philippian church (and us) to **press onward** by appealing to them based on the gifts and blessings they received when they put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul says his joy is made complete by the way the Philippians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their lives (pressing onward toward Christ in unity / love / grace).

The thing that Paul wanted most for them was to see them more like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Paul says complete my joy by running hard after Christ, relinquish your preferences, care compassionately for brothers and sisters, seek unity with each other, humbly honor one another.

*Verses 2*

The central theme here is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amongst the body of believers (the church).

We can divide up the instructions Paul gives here in two categories:

Unity of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unity of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unity of conviction involves what we believe and carries the idea of having harmony in action, attitude, and conviction. This is rooted, and informed by the Word of God, the Bible.

Unity of affection involves having care, genuine concern for one another, and loving one another deeply and sincerely despite matters of disagreement.

*Verses 3-4*

Paul says that Christians who are **pressing onward** toward Christ live lives that hare marked with humility instead of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The way of the church - the way of unity - the way of **pressing onward** is to take the same concern we have for ourselves and apply that to others.

*Verse 5*

This type of attitude is grounded in the heart change that occurs in us when we believe the gospel and put our faith/trust in Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we are called to follow the example that Christ set for us in humility and service for others.

As you think about each other let your minds be informed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Application*

How are you completing someone else’s joy? Are you guarding the good deposit entrusted to you?

Who are your pouring into? Who are saying to: “complete my joy”?

Are you living in the example of Christ? In unity? In love? Seeking other’s interests and preferences in the same way you seek your own?

What would it look like for our church, our community, and for you individually if we all sought unity and to count others above ourselves?

**Blanks: live; Christ; unity; conviction & affection; pride; Jesus Christ.**