

One-Minded, Love-Minded!

I. Announce:

- A. 3rd Service Baby Dedication: Jeremy Philip Klamp
- B. **Haiti Pastors Conf Update**: Sp. Warfare. Movies Courageous & Fireproof.
- C. **Lycia Harvey Interview**:
 1. Back to Kosovo this week. What changes now w/the church? W/the cultural center?
 2. How can we pray for you?
- D. **Charlotte Paulson**: ICA
- E. Help for a Temecula Military Family.

II. Intro:

- A. **Phillips Brooks** (great preacher, saw his church in Boston. Wrote "Oh Lil Town of Beth") once asked the operator of a local livery stable for the best horse he had. He said, **"I am taking my wife for a ride & I want the very best for the occasion."** The livery man hitched up the buggy & led the horse out, & said, **"Dr. Brooks, this animal is as perfect as a horse could be. It is kind, gentle, intelligent, well-trained, obedient, willing, responds instantly to your every command, never kicks, balks, or bites, & lives only to please its driver."** The good doctor listened to it all & then whispered to the owner, **"Do you suppose you could get that horse to join my church?"**
- B. We continue our discussion from ch.14 regarding **strong & weak Christians...& their unity**.
 1. **We move from: don't** despise other Christians for their liberties or lack thereof in gray issues. **And**, don't hinder their conduct. **To now** in the positive, to **follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ**.
- C. Remember what we learned from **Cain** in Gen. 4:8,9 when asked *where his brother Abel was*, he responded, *Am I my brother's keeper?*
 1. **New Cent. Vers.** "I don't know. Is it my job to take care of my brother?"
 2. **NLT** "Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"
 - a) **Cain was a careless worshipper, an angry son, a murderer, & a ruthless wanderer. Knowing his history we would be safe in listening to his opinion...& GOING THE OPPOSITE WAY!**
 - b) **The world** says, **"Am I my brother's keeper"**; **but we** should say, **"I am my brother's keeper"**!
 - (1) Let's learn how to **care for them**, as they are our kinsmen **both** in this life **&** in the next!

III. UNITY! (1-6)

- A. Importance of Unity – It was on Jesus’ mind right before He died. When He prayed in Jn. 17:20,21 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; "that they all may be **one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
1. Are **we** making this come true?
 2. Are **you** making this come true?
 - a) We ask Jesus, “why wont You answer my prayer?”
Jesus asks us, “why wont you answer My prayer???”
 3. We like **disputing doctrine** with each others **rather than gathering around the cross!**
- B. **Our Obligation!** (1,2)
- C. (1) The **strong** must bear the weak & help them grow, & that takes **love & patience**. (www)
1. And remember, **Strength** is for **service not for status!**
- D. **Bear** – not just putting up with them, or tolerating them. It means **to personally shoulder their burdens...as if they were your own.**
- E. (2) **Why should we do this?** Because we love them enough to want to help them toward maturity, toward their highest good.
1. We need to **stay close enough to them** to be able to reach out & give them a little bit of steadying when it is needed.
 2. You probably did that when you taught your child to **ride a bike!**
 - a) **1st you held him/her up. Then**, as they began to learn how to balance you just kept a hand in place, w/a light touch, & corrected the beginnings of a fall. **Then** you ran along side as they gained confidence in staying upright. **Then** you stood & watched & cheered. **You** cleaned up a few cuts & sent them out again. **Then** you watched them ride off on their own...**Competent! Stronger! You helped!**
- F. **Our Example!** (3)
- G. If we live to **please ourselves**, we will **not** follow the example of Christ who lived to **please the Father & help others**. (note: pleasing is Key, 3 x’s)
1. **Jesus didn't come to gratify self but to give self.**
- H. Christ didn’t regard His *equality w/God*, as something to be used for His own pleasure.
1. He didn’t come as a **reigning Sovereign**(though He could have)...but as a **Sacrifice!**
- I. (3b) From Ps.69:9. Not only did Christ give up His robes of deity & His very life...but He even sacrificed His innocence in exchange for **our guilt**. - **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.**

1. I suppose we could sacrifice a few of our own freedoms to bring another believer to greater freedoms.

J. **Our Motivation!** (4)

K. Since He just quoted **the O.T.** he briefly comments about its **nature & purpose**.

1. **Like Paul**, we too can look to them for truth & guidance.
2. **The OT** is still relevant in the modern world, & will meet our deepest needs!
3. **It encourages us**...by reading about God's Attributes & character. **By** Reading the biographies of saints who overcame great obstacles. **By** direct Scriptures that call for endurance & speaks encouragement.
4. **It gives us Hope** – God has promised us a wonderful future. **The O.T. underlines, highlights, & illustrates that promise!**

L. **Our Application!** (5,6)

M. (5) Jesus Christ is our model for Christian conduct.

1. **Check out all other deities**, from *the Assyrians, Babylonians, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans...* **check out all other Holy Books...** **No holy book calls God by such sympathetic & attractive names as the NT!**
 - a) He is the...**God of all comfort, God of compassion, God of consolation, God of patience, God of peace, God of grace, God of glory, & the God of Hope.**

N. (6) **One mind & One mouth** - Someone said to General Eisenhower, "It's great how you were able to coordinate all the **teams** in that great enterprise(WWII)." The General quickly corrected him: "Not teams," he said, "but **team**."

1. How can **we** be a united team?
2. How can we be **like-minded, 1-minded, 1-mouthed?**
3. Does it mean we as Christians should **never disagree?**
 - a) I like Ruth Graham's philosophy, she said regarding marriage, "If 2 people agree on everything, one of them isn't needed."
4. See, it's **not** about **agreeing** on everything, **or** coming to the **same conclusions**. (obvious from his discussion of weak/strong in ch.14)
5. He is looking for **unity of perspective**. Think as **Christ** thinks. Take on **His** values & priorities.
6. Unity produces **symphony of praise** to God.
 - a) **In a choir** there are those who sing **Alto**, some that sing **Soprano**, some **Tenor**, some **Baritone**, & some **Bass**.
 - (1) Different parts & different itches...**but, beautiful harmony!**

- (a) And all are following **the same choir director**.
 - b) **In an orchestra** there are those who play different instruments.
 - (1) Some play French Horn, some play flute, some clarinet, some Baritone, & some violin, trumpet, trombone.
 - (2) Different parts & different sounds...**but, same song!**
 - (a) All following the same conductor.
 - c) **The body of Christ** is no different.
 - (1) **Ps: Remember before an orchestra plays, each musician must tune his own individual instrument! (you in tune?)**
- O. (6b) **One mouth/voice Glorify God** – What a goal!
- 1. **I think of the smile of the conductor** at the end of a piece when he turns & bows to the audience.
 - a) Saw this at Biola when Zach was in their choir. He was sure proud of his group!
 - b) I picture **God** the same way, so proud of **His kids**.

IV. EXAMPLE (7-12)

- A. (7) **Receive/Accept one another** = to open our arms and hearts to each other.
 - 1. To value the individual so much **that** he or she experiences warmth and belonging.
- B. (7b) This is the **standard** by which acceptance is to be measured. **“Just as Christ has received/welcomed us”**.
 - 1. **So, how do we receive/accept them? As perfect, flawless? Of course not!**
 - a) When we trusted in Christ, He accepted us as **forgiven & as having promise**.
 - 2. **“We had to accept being accepted even though we were unacceptable!”**
 - a) So we must **accept** one another though we may see some things in the other that are **unacceptable!**
 - b) One man was asked, **“Are you associating with that brother who is in error?”** To which he replied, **“That’s the only brothers I have!”**
 - 3. **Receive one another** = (pres. Imper) **“keep on accepting or receiving one another”**.
 - a) How? Greet those you normally **don’t** talk to. Minimizing differences. Seek common ground for fellowship.
 - (1) Christ exemplified this unifying spirit when he brought **Jews & Gentiles** together in one body.
- C. (9-12) **Praise!**
 - 1. These quotations are taken from all 3 divisions of the OT - **The Law, The Prophets, and The Psalms**.

- a) **David** in a song vowed to Praise God among the Gentiles. (9) Ps.18:49; 2 Sam.22:50
 - b) **Moses** sang in his great hymn of victory over Pharaoh. (10) Deut.32:43
 - c) The **Psalmist** called the Gentiles to lift their voices in praise to God. (11) Ps.117:1
(1) From both the **shortest** and the **middle chapter** of the Bible.
 - d) **Isaiah** shares the messianic prophecy of the Messiah coming as a shoot springing up from the stump of David's family line. (12) Is.11:10
2. No less than **five** different Greek words for **praise** are used in **three** brief OT quotes, reminding us how significant **praise** is in God's sight.
- a) Of all the songs in the book of Revelation, did you know **not one** is a **solo**!
(1) **Ex:** 4 living creatures sing; 24 elders; a multitude of angels; every creature.
 - b) Spurgeon said, **If someone asked what we want the Church to be, we would be pretty close to right if we said that we wanted it to be a choir. We should be anxious to build lives, belonging to Jesus, which harmonize w/each other in praise to God!**

V. PROVISION! (13)

A. **Hope** = Confident expectation.

- 1. This is one who has **complete assurance** about the future.
- 2. There is a **Natural hope** and a **Spiritual hope**:
- 3. **Natural hope:** (Dict. a **feeling** of expectation)
 - a) **Benjamin Franklin** said, "**He that lives upon hope will die fasting.**"
 - b) **An anonymous writer** said that "**hope is a quivering, nervous creature trying to be bright & cheerful but, alas, frequently sick abed with nervous prostration & heart failure.**"
- 4. **Spiritual hope:**
 - a) Hebrews 6:19 says, **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul.**
- 5. **Hopes overflow is what?** but...**Joy & Peace.**
 - a) They are also the **1st things to flee** when you **lose hope.**
- 6. Being glad is a **decision** of **my will**, **not** an **expression** of **my emotions.**

B. **By the power of the H.S.** – We can start building bridges of unity today!

- 1. **Jesus & Paul** placed a very high premium on **unity...will you?**
- 2. **Will you work toward making Jesus' prayer of unity come true?**

C. **The Order Paul laid out...**We **believe** in Christ(vs.12 *in him*); **then** we **experience fullness of joy**; **then** we **experience fullness of peace**; **then** we **abound in Hope.**

- 1. Our **one great hope** then is to **believe on him. Will you?**

D. **END** - A famous wagon once stood in the city of **Gordium** in **Asia Minor**. Its yoke and pole were tied with an **intricate knot**. It was said that whoever *untied the knot* would be ruler of Asia. Alexander the Great came, **severed the knot with one stroke of his sword**, and ***the Gordian knot*** became proverbial.

1. We were bound by sin. Christ from his cross set us free with one stroke!