

THINGS THAT HOLD A CHURCH TOGETHER
PHIL. 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. The church is said to be a "spiritual house" made of "living stones."
 - 1. Like all houses, this house must have things to hold it together.
 - 2. What would happen if the nails, glue, and other binding materials were removed from this building?

- B. Paul writes of those things that should exist in the church that would make it a vibrant body and "fill-up his cup of joy."
 - 1. The greatest news he could receive.
 - 2. Any pastor is happy when a church grows.

I. "CONSOLATION IN CHRIST." V1

- A. "If there be" is not a question of existence but an appeal to these things because they do exist.
 - 1. It really emphasizes their existence.

- B. Consolation = "a calling near, a summons to one's side."
 - 1. "So by all the stimulus of Christ."
 - 2. Our mutual union in Christ should cheer us up.

II. "COMFORT OF LOVE." V1

- A. comfort = a speaking near, kindly, and soothingly, implying persuasive power.
 - 1. Love speaks to us.
 - 2. "If you can be persuaded by love."

- B. Love is the greatest of spirituals.
 - 1. What is the voice of love?
 - 2. What would love suggest?

III. "FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT." U1

- A. fellowship = act of partaking, sharing, participation.
 - 1. This is with the Spirit.
 - 2. "a common sharing in the Spirit."

- B. If we have genuine partnership with the Spirit, what will be our main interests?
 - 1. Most people want the Spirit for power!
 - 2. Some want Him to feel good.
 - 3. Some invoke Him for wealth or health.
 - 4. We want to use the Spirit, not let the Spirit use us

- C. What is the Spirits sphere of work?
 - 1. To convict.
 - 2. The Spirits work is work in the spiritual realm.

IV. "BOWELS AND MERCIES"

- A. bowels = the inward parts.
 - 1. That which is affected by emotion.
 - 2. The inward organs of the body that are affected by grief or compassion.

- B. mercies = subjective compassion or pity felt on witnessing misfortune or calamity; a sense of unhappiness for the ills of others.
 - 1. People who can be touched.

V. "FULFILL YE MY JOY" U2 (Then make me truly happy).

- A. Do the things I have taught you to do.
 - 1. He taught them God's Will.
 - 2. He taught by revelation, past and present.

- B. "that ye be likeminded."
 - 1. Likeminded = of equal soul.
 - 2. Look at things with the same value.

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- C. "having the same love."
 - 1. United in mutual love.
 - 2. Loving the same things.

- D. "being of one accord."
 - 1. Joined together in soul or sentiment.
 - 2. Unity of life in love, having the same goal.

- E. "of one mind," mind, thought, feeling, will!
 - 1. [] what one has in mind.
 - 2. Having the same thing in mind!

VI. "LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH STRIFE OR VAINGLORY" v3

- A. nothing = no thing.
 - 1. This allows for no small and great things.

- B. strife = as one labouring for wages, intriguing faction
 - 1. Do nothing from selfishness.

- C. vainglory = empty as to glory, marking the contents.
 - 1. When you measure what you are doing and find it empty of God's glory, don't do it!"

- D. "but in lowliness of mind."
 - 1. modesty of mind.
 - 2. No intellectual arrogance!

- E. "let each esteem other better than themselves."
 - 1. esteem = to reckon, regard, to view.
 - 2. Let each of you regard one another more important than self.

VII. LOOK NOT EVERY MAN ON HIS OWN THINGS...V4

- A. "Stop looking after your own interests only.."
 - 1. The practice of watching after anothers stock.
 - 2. You never told a man where his pigs were caught in a fence, you got them out.

- B. "but every man also on the things of others."
 - 1. "practice looking after the interests of others too."
 - 2. This broadens mans view.

