

## A The origin of disunity (Philippians 2:1-3a)

- ❖ Before putting his finger on the sore spot, pointing out the reasons for the disunity that was perceived among the Philippians, what are the first pieces of advice he gives them to achieve unity, completing his joy (Phil. 2:1-2)?
  - Comfort in Christ. He encourages them to study and imitate the exemplary life of Christ
  - Comfort in love. Their love for Christ exerts a stimulating power over their minds
  - Communion of the Spirit. They must submit to the control of the Spirit
  - Heartfelt affection. They should reflect the tender and warm emotions of human affection
  - Mercy. May they demonstrate the presence of genuine affection through individual acts of mercy
  - Unity of feeling and love. Mutual love makes thoughts similar and leads to united action
- ❖ All this they could only achieve if they put aside what separated them: pride and arguments (Phil. 2:3a).
- ❖ Both of these problems were present in Lucifer's rebellion, and are among the most serious problems in relationships (Gal. 5:26; Jas. 3:16 NIV)

## B Unity through humility (Philippians 2:3b-4)

- ❖ The formula for unity that Paul proposes is not something external, but an inner attitude: humility. Besides being a characteristic trait of Jesus, He encouraged His listeners to be humble (Mt. 11:29; 18:4; 23:12).
- ❖ To attain this humility, Paul proposes that we consider others more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3). But aren't we all equal before God? Shouldn't there be equality in order to have unity?
- ❖ Paul doesn't say that we are inferior to others, but rather that *we should consider* ourselves as such. Just as a servant seeks the good of his master, we should seek the good of those we *consider* superior to ourselves (Phil. 2:4).
- ❖ To be able to help others, we must learn to listen to them and understand their point of view. All of this is undoubtedly the work of the Holy Spirit.

## C Think like Jesus (Philippians 2:5)

- ❖ How are our thoughts shaped? Through the "avenues of the soul," that is, our senses. Everything we read, see, or hear shapes us in some way. And, of course, Satan bombards our senses to mold our minds to his own way of thinking.
- ❖ Paul is radical. He not only invites us to watch our thoughts, but he asks us to think as Christ thought (Phil. 4:8; 2:5).
- ❖ Perhaps we can, with great effort, achieve the first. But changing our minds to conform to the mind of Jesus can only be done in us by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ This is because our thoughts are carnal, and our heart deceitful (Jer. 17:9). The Spirit will transform our carnal mind into a spiritual mind, like Christ's (Rom. 8:1, 5).

## **D The attitude of Jesus (Philippians 2:6-8)**

- ❖ Paul highlights three qualities of Jesus:
  - He renounced his divine prerogatives (Phil. 2:6)
  - He became man to serve us (Phil. 2:7)
  - He humbly obeyed in everything, even to his death (Phil. 2:8)
- ❖ Being the Creator, He became a creature. He accepted being mistreated and dying on the cross in order to redeem us.
- ❖ Despite being on an equal footing with the other two Persons of the Godhead, Jesus' submission to the Father's will was always perfect. There was never a moment when he refused to submit.
- ❖ When we think about this, we can only bow down and worship our wonderful Savior.
- ❖ He is our role model. We must be willing to humble ourselves and sacrifice ourselves for the good of others.
- ❖ Christ's amazing condescension in becoming a human being will be a subject of study for the redeemed throughout eternity.
- ❖ It is incredible that the infinite and eternal Being became a finite human being, subject to death. This is what Paul calls “the mystery of godliness” (1 Tim. 3:16).
- ❖ Jesus went from universal supremacy to absolute servitude. This is precisely the opposite of what Lucifer aspired to, who, being a servant, desired universal supremacy.
- ❖ This example calls us to abandon our selfishness and our desire to be served, and replace them with humility and a willingness to serve others.