

BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S): Philippians 2:1-2; 1 Peter 3:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 4:1-5; Isaiah 44:6; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; 15:1-4; 12-14; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 14:6; Galatians 1:8-9; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16-18; Acts 4:12; Romans 16:17.

KEY VERSE(s): – *Philippians 2:1-2* – *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

Discuss the meaning and importance of Paul's words that follow - "*if there is any consolation in Christ*" – (comfort of love - *fellowship of the Spirit* – affection and mercy.)

Paul states – if there is any (comfort of love - fellowship of the Spirit – affection and mercy) – “fulfill my joy in being like-minded,” – why is it important for believers to be like-minded?

Discuss the significance of being like-minded in the areas of - the same love, one accord, one mind.

As followers of Christ – there are basic doctrinal elements, essentials of the faith, that we need to understand and believe. (being like-minded). Describe and discuss the following.

Monotheism -

Trinity –

Deity of Christ -

Resurrection –

The Gospel –

Salvation – Christ alone, grace, faith

It takes ongoing work for a body of believers to be of one mind. Each person, belonging to the body, must work together with fellow believers to accomplish the goal that God has set before them. Believers are called to be one body and one family in Christ. The unity that we have, in Christ, will transform how we interact with each other, and the fellowship of the Spirit will provide us the help we need to accomplish our mission to glorify God.

What is your “take-away” from this week’s study and how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?

Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.

1) Observation

What does the passage say?

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?

What other questions arise from the passage?

2) Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?

What is God saying through this passage?

What is the main point of this passage?

3) Application

How do I need to respond?

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

How should I live my life in light of this passage?

How does this truth compel me to be transformed?

What does it look like to put this into practice?

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)