Intro:
- last Sunday morning we talk about how we are to be united – individually, congregationally
  - our job is to preserve the unity by:
    - walking in a manner worthy of our calling
    - working together
    - treating the other members properly
    - not doing anything that would destroy unity

- today we talk about our “motivation” to do the necessary work, so we’re unified

➤ We’re motivated to be unified because Jesus demands it
- Jesus desires unity
  - Jn. 17:20-21 Jesus prayed for unity, hours before betrayed
➤ - Jn. 17:17 unity based in truth (word)
  - motivation: Jesus’ desire, and our sanctification in truth

➤ - unity commanded
  - Rom. 12:16a be of the same mind toward one another
  - Phil. 1:27 stand firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel
  - motivation: obey the Lord’s command

- illus.: family - head, parents desire and command unity, established on truth – lies destroy unity
  - joke: girls when younger, arguing, come to me to settle
    - “You better find a solution, because if I settle it no one is going to be happy!”
  - demand unity – based on the principles taught – unity

➤ We’re motivated to be unified because we want to please the Lord
- Col. 1:10 as Jesus’ disciples, we want to please Him in all respects – UNITY

- illus.: those who are sanctified in truth want to do everything God wills (Col. 1:10)
  - because of Jesus’ life and sacrifice and service now in heaven (describe)
  - “sanctified” set apart to God, made holy, set apart for service to God – UNITY
    - we must be unified as a congregation to carry out our work to it’s fullest extent
    - therefore we’ll do anything necessary to obey God, be unified in truth, fulfill our mission

- illus.: family
  - raise children in the Lord
  - challenge: raise children to appreciate what you’ve done for them (in the Lord), so they want to be
    unified with the family
    - discipline, making them work for much of what they have, appreciate the value of $, appreciate
      love of family
  - family unity: religious, moral, spiritual
Four “if” statements of Philippians 2:1
- Phil. 2:1 the “if” statements

- “Paul uses four conditions in this verse, all of the first class, assuming the condition to be true” (Robertson).
  - if there is any encouragement in Christ
  - if there is any consolation of love
  - if there is any fellowship of the Spirit
  - if any affection and compassion

- the “if” statements set forth the motivation for doing what Paul commands in the verses that follow
  - Phil. 2:1-5 the four conditions set forth in vs. 1 is the motivation for being unified

- remainder of lesson: explore the motivation for unity in Phil. 2:1

We’re motivated to be unified because of the encouragement in Christ
- Phil. 2:1a What is the encouragement we receive in Christ?

- Phil. 2:5-8 encouraged by Christ’s humble service – Lord who is more humble than all of us
  - Lord who did the hard part, and gives us such an easy part to do, especially in comparison

- Phil. 2:9-11 encouragement by Christ who is now exalted in heaven, yet serving as our high priest
  - we are not alone, Jesus is in heaven helping us, so we have confidence to go to God in time of need

- Phil. 2:2-4 encouragement if brethren with whom we are united, to serve God
  - assembly, working together, stirring one another up to love and good deeds

- Phil. 2:12-13 encouragement of doing God’s word, as He wills
  - we know our lives are not in vain, if we’re doing God’s work in His kingdom – not matter what happens

- in Christ, we are encouraged in every way, and thus motivated to be unified as brethren
We’re motivated to be unified because of the comfort (NKV) (consolation) of love
- Phil. 2:1a What is the comfort (consolation) we receive from love?
  - the result of love (agape) toward God and brethren and man is comfort (consolation), self and others
- Jn. 3:16 comforted by God’s love to send Jesus into the world to save us
  - God will do anything for us that is needed, demonstrated by fact that He didn’t withhold Jesus (Rom. 5)
- 1 Jn. 4:17-18; 5:3 comfort of loving God and obeying, thus being certain of our salvation
  - not afraid to die, welcome death, desire to be at home with the Lord
  - faith works through love (Gal. 5:6)
- Phil. 2:2 comforted by brethren who have the same love for us
  - devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another in honor (Rom. 12:10)
  - hearts knit together in love (Col. 2:2)
  - love is the perfect bond of unity (Col. 3:14)
- in Christ, we are encouraged and comforted; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren

We’re motivated to be unified because of the fellowship of the Spirit
- Phil. 2:1a What is the fellowship we have from the Spirit?
  - fellowship: sharing (joint-participation)
- Gal. 5:16-26 we jointly participate in the Spirit as they walk in the Spirit thus bearing the fruit of the Spirit
  - therefore our quality of life is the best it can be on earth
- Rom. 8:1-2, 12-17, 26-29, 31-32 blessings of walking by the Spirit
  - best life on earth, victory over sin, and eternal life in heaven
  - fellowship of the Spirit moves us to unified with all the redeemed
- in Christ, we are encouraged, comforted, and have fellowship with the Spirit; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren
We’re motivated to be unified because of affection and compassion (mercy, NKJ)
- Phil. 2:1 affection and compassion

- the affection and compassion we have as Christians, toward God and our brethren, motivate us to be unified in Christ
  - 1 Cor. 16:14 let all things that you do be done in love
  - 1 Cor. 16:22 if anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed
  - 1 Cor. 12:31; 13:4-8a, 13 love we have for brethren

- in Christ, we are encouraged, comforted, have fellowship with the Spirit, and affection and compassion; thus we are motivated to be unified with as brethren

Summary / Inv.
- review PP

- inv.: do you want to be part of this incredible family called the church of Christ. . . .