

The Formula for Spiritual Unity, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Philippians 2:3-5
- B. Paul gives us the motive for unity.
- C. Paul addresses how the church can come to unity.

II. Do nothing from selfishness. (Galatians 5:20)

- A. Selfishness is egotism that is always destructive.
- B. The ultimate end of selfishness is loss of unity. (I Corinthians 1:10)

III. Do nothing according to vain conceit.

- A. This is a state of mind that seeks personal glory.
- B. One ought to think of others as more important than oneself.
- C. We do not know what is in the heart of another person—we can only know what is in our own heart. With first hand information, we have enough information to give ourselves a low estimate only.

IV. Look at others as superior to yourself.

- A. Do not look out for your own personal interests only.
- B. One needs to be responsible for his own interests, but this is not the only or primary aim.

V. Christ is our model for all of this.

Application questions:

1. How have you seen selfishness divide a group before?

2. Why is it important to know the limitations of knowing other people's hearts toward conceit?

3. How can a person look to others as being more important? What does this look like?
