**Philippians 2:1-2; Recipe for *Unity***

When Paul heard/saw the *Macedonian vision* (Acts 16:9), he went from Troas to Samothrace, then on to Neapolis, and finally to a *leading city* of Macedonia, Philippi (a Roman colony). There he met Lydia (Acts 16:13-15), and unfortunately for Paul, several jailers, (Acts 16:16-40). This *sets the stage* for his later, *prison epistle* (1:7)to the church there. Though *unsure* of his own life (1:19-26), he sought to *encourage* and *console* the Philippians in their *fellowship* to greater *affection* and *compassion.*

Let’s look a little closer, then, at 2:1-2.

First of all, notice some specific words:

* ***Encouragement-*** (*paraklesis*) a *calling near* for *comfort* or *refreshment.*
* ***Consolation-*** (*paramuthion*) a *persuasive, comforting address*
* ***Fellowship-*** (*koinonia*) *joint participation, intercourse, community;* the *share one has in anything*
* ***Affection-*** (*splagchnon*) literally *bowels* (heart, liver, lungs, intestines, etc.); *seat of tender affections, compassion, kindness; heart in which mercy resides*
* ***Compassion-*** (*oiktirmos*) *compassion, pity, mercy*

Now, how do you get there? What are the *ingredients* that make this *cake?*

* **Have the *Same Mind-*** “Common knowledge” sometimes gets a *bad rap-* even deservedly so; but this *good common knowledge,* 1Cor.1:10. We don’t have to agree on politics, vanilla or chocolate, Ford or Chevy, etc. But we must agree on *the gospel,* the *word of the cross,* for it is the *power of God,* 1Cor.1:12-19. One definition of *phroneo* is to *cherish the same views;* be *harmonious; agreed together,* cf. Rom.12:16
* **Maintain *Same Love-*** Common heart; cf. vv.3-4; cp. Eph.5:28-30; 1Tim.1:5; 1Cor.12:12-27;13:1-7. The *love* that is to be *maintained* is *agape-* the highest form which is *as God loves;* it is *love of the* (at times) *unlovable;* it is the love that *establishes a value* rather than *requiring one,* cf. Rom.5:8.
* ***United in spirit-*** (*sumpsuchos* is a combination of *sun* {*together with*} and *psuchos* {*inner life, self*}; thus, being *united in spirit*). It’s not just our *minds* and *hearts* that are to be *united/harmonious,* but our very *spirits,* cp. Col.2:2,19; and 1Sam.18:1, *“the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.”*
* ***Intent on one purpose*-** (*phroneo* {to *set one’s mind*} + *heis* {*one*}; thus to *set one’s mind* on the *purpose* of ***oneness****,* or *unity*), cf. Eph.4:1-4; such requires the setting aside of *self* and *selfishness* in all its forms, cf. Phil.2:3-4.

Most would love the *encouragement, consolation, fellowship, affection,* and *compassion* of v.1. But are we willing to have the *same mind, maintain the same love* one for another, be *united in* our *spirits* (as the *innermost* of our *selves*), and become *intent on oneness?* The *loner* who insists they’re “just not a *people* person” will never get there. The one who only *comes* or is *involved* for “what I can get out of it” will never get there. The real question is, “Will you?” To *eat the cake* of v.1, we must follow *the recipe* of v.2!