

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 20-21, 2001

Dale Whitehead

"Conducting Ourselves in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel"

The first element of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel is standing firm in one spirit, with one mind."

The second element of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel is our pursuit of church unity.

What is helpful is to understand that Philippians 2:1-4 is not simply a plea for unity but also a formula for unity.

All biblical scholars agree that the "if" in Philippians 2:1 is a first class condition and therefore should be understood as "since " or" because".

We need to strive for church unity because of the encouragement we receive in Christ.

The root meaning of the Greek (PARAKLESIS) which is translated "encouragement" is to "call to one's side".

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Why should we strive as a church to remain united? In light of all the encouragement that we have received in Christ this is what we should want to do.

Obedience should not be so much about keeping the law as much as it is about pleasing Christ (Genesis 39:9).