

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 27-28, 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.

A church will not be able to stand firm until it stands united.

Philippians 2:1-4 is not simply a call to unity but a formula for unity.

The first component of the formula is right motivations.

The first motivation is "encouragement" in Christ."

The second motivation is "consolation of love."

The word "consolation" (PARAMUTHION) fundamentally means "to speak to someone" or "to speak to someone by coming close to his side."

Jesus has not come to our side to encourage us in some sort of official capacity or in a harsh way but in a very personal way as a person would his friend.

The third motivation is "fellowship of the Spirit."

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The Holy Spirit not only desires church unity, He is the source of church unity (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:3).

The word "fellowship" (KOINONIA) comes from a Greek word meaning "common."

It is through the Holy Spirit that Christ's encouragement is ministered to us (John 16:14-15).

The fourth motivation is "affection and compassion."

The Holy Spirit has affection for us (Romans 8:26-27).

The word "affection" comes from a Greek word (SPLANCHNON) which refers to the intestines. It came to refer to our capacity to love at the deepest level.

The word "compassion" (OIKTIRMOS) can also be translated "mercies." It refers to the manifestations of the "affection" in various yearnings and actions.