

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for November 17-18, 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 (Philippians 1:27-30).

The second element of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel is our pursuit of church unity (Philippians 2:1-4).

The first component in the formula for church unity is right motivations.

The second component in the formula for church unity is a right description.

The first mark of unity is "being of the same mind" (Philippians 2:2).

The second mark of unity is "maintaining the same love" (Philippians 2:2).

The third mark of unity is "united in spirit intent on one purpose" (Philippians 2:2).

The third component is the right means (Philippians 2:3-4).

Our totally self oriented agendas must be set aside (Philippians 2:3).

The word "selfishness" (ERITHEIA) comes from a Greek word meaning "to serve for hire." It speaks of a party spirit. It is the willingness to sacrifice unity on the altar of personal goals.

The word "empty conceit" comes from a Greek word (KENODOXIA) which literally means "vain or empty glory." A person who is characterized by this will ultimately have an inflated view of themselves.

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We have to stop seeing ourselves in terms of being better than others (Philippians 2:3).

"Humility of mind" (TAPEINOPHROSYNE) means "lowliness of mind."

The personal awareness of the magnitude of our sin is the factor that will produce the humility of mind that Paul is speaking about (1 Corinthians 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:15).

The word "regard" (HEGEOMAI) means "to calculate" or "to reckon." It implies a conscious sure judgment resting on carefully weighed facts. The fact upon which our judgment is resting is the conscious awareness of the magnitude of our personal sinfulness.

Our personal agendas must involve not only our needs but the needs of others.

The Greek word (SKOPEO) translated "look out for" means to "look at attentively" or "fix one's attention on" something with deep interest in it.