

Dessert for Those Who Are Still Hungry!

South Hill Bible Church October 10, 2021

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, 2 complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. 3 Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. 4 Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. 5 You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had... Philippians 2, NET

(1) Are there specific things you've done or doctrines you believe that make it difficult to be of the same mind and share the same love and embrace a common purpose with other believers in this church? Identify what those might be and humbly reevaluate whether you were justified. And if you should discover that you were in the wrong, let go of it. Repent. Go to that person and confess your wrong. Listen to them as they explain how it hurt them. Then ask their forgiveness and pray with them, thanking God for healing the divide between you both. If you find this difficult to do, reflect long and hard on what God in Christ has done for you.

(2) Have you formed judgments against another Christian in this church body because they failed to embrace your agenda or disagreed with your opinion about what is of ultimate importance or didn't get on board with something that you believed was crucial to living the Christian life? If you find that difficult to admit, reflect long and hard on what God in Christ has done for you. Then go, repent, confess, allow God to heal that breach.

(3) Have you contributed to disunity and disharmony by arrogantly holding on to things that in the big picture are only of secondary importance? Have you based your sense of personal value on whether or not you could get others to agree with you on these matters? Have those who disagreed with you been made to feel inferior or judged or less spiritual? If so, go, do what you Jesus asks to make it right with them. If you find that difficult to embrace, reflect long and hard on what God in Christ has done for you.

(4) What are some very specific and concrete ways in which you can begin to take a greater interest in the needs and desires of others, even if it means setting aside your own preferences? If you find it hard to come up with an answer, pray for insight from the Holy Spirit. Review the gifts you've been given that could benefit others. And reflect long and hard on the lengths to which God in Christ has gone on your behalf in seeking your best interests.

(5) Have there been occasions when the opportunity existed to change your schedule and lay aside your goals in order to be of help to someone truly in need, but you chose not to because you regarded them as undeserving and less important or less significant than yourself? If so, meditate on how God in Christ loved you and gave himself for you that you might have eternal life. (Adapted from Sam Storms)