

Trinity II
Col. 3
6/6/2010
Lynchburg, Virginia

Exhordium

Last week I preached about the nature of the Trinity. I want to follow that up this week with some specifics. We set the foundation last week, thinking about God in His Triune nature. Because He is Trinity, therefore we are a diverse body. But He is also One, therefore, we should operate as One body. What does that mean? How do we do this on a day to day basis?

EXEGESIS

Philippians 2 ¹*If there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ²Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being of one accord, of one mind.*

If there is anything consoling in Christ, comfort of love and fellowship of the Spirit, be likeminded. Hey folks, this is central to the faith! Same love. One accord. One mind.

Same love- love each other, deepened love, sacrificial love, following those who exlemplify this kind of love.

One Accord- doing things together, like playing a chord, all the notes make a harmony.

One Mind- even our brains are right brain/left brain. But it is one brain. The two sides work together to make beauty and logic. Our body should be growing in that way. As we think about things, our inclinations ought to be melding together. Like a couple that has been married for 20 years. They start to anticipate what the other one will do.

³*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* ⁴*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

Like-mindedness is Christlike. But being Christlike, it is also Trinitarian because Jesus Christ was likeminded with His Father and with the Spirit. So, as we strive for likemindedness we are being like God. It is also important for us to note that likemindedness does not make us robots. It is a full expression of our diversity, of our differences but all for one purpose

to reveal God's glory. We say that this is to glorify God. But to reveal God's glory is to show His Spirit. This is virtually impossible to do without being like-minded because not being likeminded is simply not a revelation of God.

But can't we disagree? Sure but how do you do it? Like Jesus, not my will? Or unlike Jesus, Not your will but mine be done.

No Strife- strife is causing trouble. Someone who is striving is trying to get ahead of everybody else. Strife always causes division. We can disagree but the purpose of discussing our disagreements is to come to agreements or understandings in the disagreements as listed above. We should never strive to win an argument solely for the sake of winning the argument. That is vain glory.

No Vainglory- What is the source of the strife? Unless you can show serious demonstrable sin in the position of your brother, then you are not seeking the glory of God in your strife. There is a sort of strife that is godly. The truth divides but we should not always divide over the truth. We should be patient. But sometimes the compromise of truth requires that we take a stand and cause trouble over it. But how do we know which is which?

One way is to try to assess why you are doing this? Is it really to the glory of God? Will what you are doing result in a more glorious kingdom? Will God be pleased with you for your position? Will the church benefit? Or, are you seeking to move ahead? Get a name for yourself? Win a fight? Get a following? If we truly believe that the chief end of man is to glorify God, then we should judge our actions according to this rule. Do our actions glorify Him? Or do they only glorify me?

⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus did not seek to grasp the preeminence. He humbled Himself. No reputation. How many of us are willing to sacrifice our reputation for others? Are you willing to serve or only to be served?

More Specifics-Put Off/Put On

Col. 3 8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

As the body of Christ, how should we be growing up?

Anger- getting mad at brothers and sisters. I have seen anger from you and have several of you even testify that you struggle with anger. Put it off.

Wrath- trying to get revenge.

Malice- having ill will towards others. Glad to see their demise. Also, nursing a grudge so you have an excuse to do them harm.

Blasphemy- taking the name of the Lord in vain, denying the power of God.

Filthy communication from your mouth- gossip, foul speech, complaining and grumbling, course jesting.

Don't lie to one another- should be able to be trusted by brothers in Christ. Do not say you are going to do something and then not do it. This includes business relationships. Only promise what you can deliver.

Col 3:12-16 ²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. ¹⁴And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Bowels of mercies- mercy, empathy, sympathy. Be made of this. It should come from your inner most being.

Kindness- not rough, not harsh

Humbleness of mind-not haughty, lowliness, ask questions, learn from others.

Meekness- submissiveness, lack of false pride, true evaluation of self, esteems others higher.

Long Suffering- patience, just as you would have them be towards you. This includes towards your own children. It also includes those you deem younger than you in the faith. Your evaluation of their age may not be accurate. They might be younger than you think. Be patient!

Forbearing one another- not taking offense easily. Don't be slighted. If so, you take yourself way too seriously.

Forgiving one another- when wronged, quickly and fully forgive.

Love as bond of perfectness- Love is the thing that ties us together. Bonded together. That is perfection. Speak truth in love. Not spineless but also not haughty. If we are bonded together by love, then being truthful will not separate us. If the truth does separate us, it shows that we have not loved as we claimed.

Peace of God rule your heart- equals peace in body- If your heart and mind are at peace, then your entire body is at rest. True of broader body. We are called to peace. If you are at peace in your heart, then it easy to be at peace with the broader body. If not, then you will cause trouble. Comfortable in your own skin, not agitated, not guilty.

Thankfulness- Peace issues forth in thankfulness. Individual thankfulness makes a thankful corporate body. We live in a day of entitlements. But a sense of entitlement is not thankfulness. It works a cancer in a body. We should all feel as if we are being treated better than we deserve because we are.

Word of Christ- Songs of Praise- Scripture and worship.

1Peter 3 Finally, *be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

EXHORTATION

1John 4 ²No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Last week I suggested that we were in about 3rd Grade of our K-12 education, when it comes to learning to love one another and acting as one body, one mind. This was not meant as an insult. We live in a world of pre-

schoolers, where the kids rush around in a mad frenzy, hardly aware that anyone else is even in the same classroom. We are learning love and that is good but let us push on further and further.

I suppose our goal at the moment is simply to get to fourth grade. How do we do this?

As we have seen from Scripture, we need to put off some things and put on others. We put off our tendency to be self-oriented in every situation. We put on a mindset that looks to the needs of others. This is very difficult. But it is love.

I leave you with just one application. Every time you hear of some goings on about a member of our body, think about how you react. It is with kindness? Empathy? Sympathy? Compassion? Humility? Or is it with pride? Anger? Malice? If the situation is bad, are you judgmental? Or burdened and sad? If the situation is good, do you immediately rejoice for God's blessing? Or, do you wonder how they could have been blessed when you are not so blessed? That is envy.

So, put OFF the selfish way of thinking and put ON the Christlike way of thinking. Ask the Lord to change your mind to be like His. It will take some prayer and some attention but God is full of grace and you can change. Amen.