

GROUNDWORK

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR UNITY, HUMILITY, AND COMMUNITY

Unity

Read Philippians 2:1-11 and ask the Holy Spirit to form TC into this kind of community.

Pastor Derwin said, “The resurrection of Jesus is the pinnacle of the Christian faith. And Jesus’ resurrection launched His new, eternal community in the present.”

- The resurrection of Jesus is not only the guarantee of our resurrection from the dead, but the launching of His new creation and community in the present.
- Why is this important?

Pastor Derwin said, “When the Apostle Paul speaks of unity, he is speaking of Jews and Gentiles living as Jesus’ resurrection community in the present.”

- Read and discuss Galatians 3:8 and Galatians 3:28-29 to see why this important.

How Do We Live in Unity?

By living intentionally with one purpose.

- Read Philippians 2:1-2.
- **Note:** the “one purpose” is for former enemies, Jews and Gentiles to love each other.
- Pastor Derwin said, “Our unity with one another across ethnic barriers is our union in the Jewish Christ. To be “in Christ” means that our lives are eternally interwoven into His life. His past is ours, His present is ours, and His future is ours. He is our life and all that is true about Him is true about us.
 - Please share your insights regarding this truth.
- Pastor Derwin said, “We have fellowship (partnership) with God the Holy Spirit. This means that God the Holy Spirit’s power resides in us and empowers us to walk in unity.”
 - Please share your insights regarding this statement.

By living humble, other-centered lives.

- Read Philippians 2:3-4.
- Why is it difficult to embody Philippians 2:3-4? Share your thoughts.
- How can we embody Philippians 2:3-4? (Hint: see verses 1-2)

By living with the same attitude of Christ Jesus.

- Read Philippians 2:5-8.
- **Note:** This is one of two **present tenses** (here a **participle**) in the midst of a series of **aoist tense verbs** and **participles**. It emphasizes the pre-existence of Jesus of Nazareth (cf. John 1:1; 8:57–58; 17:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; and Colossians 1:17). Jesus’ pre-existence is another proof of His deity. Jesus did not come into being at Bethlehem. There has never been a time when Jesus did not exist and was not divine.
- “...in the nature of God...” This is the Greek word “morphē” which is used in several senses: (1) an Aristotlian sense of essence; (2) the sense of the nature of something, or unchanging essence of something (this is how the early Church fathers interpreted it); or (3) the outward form of

something, as in the Septuagint (LXX). This does not mean that YHWH has a physical body, but that the attributes and characteristics—the very essence of God the Father—are evident in God the Son. It is another way of asserting the full deity of Christ. **Utley, R. J. (1997). *Paul Bound, The Gospel Unbound: Letters from Prison (Colossians, Ephesians and Philemon, then later, Philippians)* (Volume 8, p. 180). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.**

- Discuss Philippians 2:5-8 and the attitude of Christ that Paul wants believers to have as well.

By living in the power of Jesus' victory over the dark powers.

- Read Philippians 2:9-11.
- Pastor Derwin said, "Jesus' death and resurrection defeats the dark powers that enslave humanity to sin, death, and evil; we have power to live in unity. Our unity displays His Lordship in our lives."
 - Discuss the above verses and statement.

Soul-tattoo:

- Read Philippians 2:1-11 every day this week.
- Pray about who you will invite to TC for Good Friday and Easter services.