

SERMON NOTES Sunday 21st January

sunnysidechurch

United in Christ: Philippians 1.27-2.30

There is a flier giving an outline and some background for our series on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Please pick up your copy from the lobby.

Sermon outline

Introduction

We are living in a divided world but Jesus' prayer was that we would be one as he and the Father were one so that the world would believe (paraphrase John 17.20-21).

What is unity?

- unity is not uniformity
- true Christian unity is based on a shared life in Christ

Why is unity important?

Unity is essential if we are to:

- worship God
- encourage one another
- share the good news of Jesus with others

How can we be united?

- We need to have the same mind as Christ and be selfless and humble
- God is working in us to make this possible

Conclusion

Doing everything without grumbling or arguing is a good place to start.

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Some questions for discussion

1. What is it that unites us?
2. Unity is not uniformity. Christians disagree on lots of things: some are essential truths for salvation, some are important matters which affect how we understand God and live our Christian lives and some points are interesting but unimportant. Can you think of some examples of each of these?
3. Why is Christian unity so important?
4. How does Jesus' example help us to think about how we can be united?
5. How did Timothy and Epaphroditus have 'the same mind set as Christ'?
6. Why is it so important for us to do everything without grumbling or arguing?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Why not take some time to pray Jesus' prayer for all who follow him: 'I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' (John 17.20-21)

Revd Rebecca Fardell

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