

**“Possessing True JOY”**  
**Philippians: A Book Study (5)**  
**“Fragile: Church Unity – Handle With Care”**  
**6/22/08**

**Text: 2:1-4**

*“<sup>1</sup>So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* (ESV)

People can rob us of our joy in Christ. The Apostle Paul was facing both problems with folks in Rome (1:15-18) as well as with some folks in Philippi. We have seen that the secret of joy in spite of circumstances is *THE SINGLE MIND*. The secret of joy in spite of people we will begin to see today is *THE SUBMISSIVE MIND*. Pursuing unity – it is a fragile item.

This unity we are trying to define is inward, not outward.

**1. THE MOTIVE FOR UNITY ( \_\_\_\_\_ we should be of one mind & spirit) – 2:1-2a**

Paul tries to explain that *IF* \_\_\_\_\_ is true then unity ought to follow. The four “**IF**’s”...

**2. THE MARKS OF UNITY ( \_\_\_\_\_ is meant by one spirit & mind) – 2:2b**

Again, there are four marks or evident fruit in a local church family that is united in spirit and mind:

**3. THE MEANS OF UNITY ( \_\_\_\_\_ we become one in spirit & mind) – 2:3-4**

Gotta reject \_\_\_\_\_

Gotta reject \_\_\_\_\_

Gotta grab hold of \_\_\_\_\_

Gotta <sup>4</sup>*not merely look out for (y)our own personal interests, but also (for) the interests of others.”*

**CONFESSION time.....**