

## HOW TO MAINTAIN PEACE WITH OTHERS

### Philippians 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

**Four expressions of unity:** Be like-minded; Have the same love; Be one in the spirit; Be one in purpose

## HOW TO HAVE UNITY

### 1. DEFUSE \_\_\_\_\_ (v3a)

<sup>3a</sup> ...Do nothing out of selfish ambition... (“Never act from motives of rivalry”; “There must be no competition among you”)

<sup>1-2</sup> What causes fights and quarrels? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it. **James 4:1-2**

<sup>1st</sup> Cause of Conflict: Competing desires

### 2. DELETE \_\_\_\_\_ (v3b)

<sup>3b</sup> ...Do nothing out of... vain conceit... (“Never act from motives of personal vanity”; “Don't do anything ... from a cheap desire to boast”)

<sup>10</sup> Pride only breeds quarrels. **Prov. 13:10**

<sup>2nd</sup> Cause of Conflict: Personal pride

### 3. DECREASE \_\_\_\_\_ (v3c)

<sup>3c</sup> ...in humility consider others better than yourselves...

Humility is not thinking less of myself, but rather  
“**not thinking \_of myself at all\_**”!

<sup>3rd</sup> Cause of Conflict: Failing to value other people

### 4. DEMONSTRATE \_\_\_\_\_ (v4)

<sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives... so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **I Peter 3:7**

<sup>4th</sup> Cause of Conflict: Being insensitive to other's needs

### 5. DEVELOP \_\_\_\_\_ (v5)

<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.

- v6 – Jesus didn't demand His rights
- v7 – He had a serving attitude.
- v8 – Jesus was willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

<sup>5th</sup> Cause of Conflict: Living without Christ

The key is not imitation but **habitation**.

<sup>3</sup> Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives, by the peace that binds you together. **Ephesians 4:3**

1. Competition; 2. Conceit; 3. Criticism; 4. Consideration; 5. Christ-likeness