

<b>Book:</b>	Philippians
<b>Series:</b>	Rejoice in the Lord!
<b>Lesson 7:</b>	Why Can't We Be Friends?
<b>Text:</b>	Philippians 2:1-11
<b>Date:</b>	2013 — October 13 (SF); October 27 (ABF)
<b>Next Lesson:</b>	Philippians 2:12-18

## INTRODUCTION

Throughout his epistles, Paul has a tremendous desire for unity. In Philippians 1:27, he wrote, "Only let your conduct be *worthy of the gospel of Christ*, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in *one* spirit, with *one* mind striving *together* for the faith of the gospel." In fact, the central command in Philippians 2:1-4 is to "complete my joy" by being unified. Paul would be led to rejoice when he heard of the unity of God's people.

Unity, then, is not just a blessing, a byproduct, a prayer request, or a desire. It is a command and a goal towards which we should all be practically and purposefully striving. Philippians 2:1-11 is a three-point discourse on unity.

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1-4)

The \_\_\_\_\_ for Unity (v. 1)

*The Desire for Unity (v. 2a)*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Unity (v. 2b)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Unity (vv. 3-4)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3) – *This is internal.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4) – *This is external.*

**Application:**

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 5-11)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7-8a)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8b-c)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 9-11)