

## FOUR THINGS ABOUT HOW WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

### 1. What We Must Do (verses 1-2)

#### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Put aside preferences and actively consider others' interests (but NOT to the neglect of the gospel)

Phil. 2:3-4

Dwell upon the main things (core truths/doctrines) and don't let secondary issues become primary (divisive).

### 2. Why we Can't Do It (verses 1-2)

#### OUR SINFUL TENDENCIES

Our tendency is to only think of ourselves first; in our sin, we tend toward selfishness.

We must not let arrogance lead us to elevate personal conviction above unity in Christ's Church.

### 3. How Jesus Did it Perfectly (verse 3)

#### HE LOVED PERFECTLY AND TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE REPROACH OF OTHERS

When He was brutally beaten and humiliated, He called out for the FORGIVENESS of those injuring Him.

Psalms 69 - Luke 22:34

### 4. How, through Him, we can too. (Verses 4-7)

#### *Model* (vs 7) - Jesus

Jesus welcomed us in our mess

Jesus welcomes us in our ongoing mess.

Therefore, we've got to welcome others who are also living in that mess"

#### *Means* (verses 4-5) - God's Word

You're not going to find the encouragement to love one another well by looking at the other person(s)

You'll find the necessary encouragement by looking at God's Word - i.e. looking to Christ!

#### *Motivation* (verses 6-7) - God's Glory

Get the spotlight off of us and unto God - Give Him the Glory!

Important question to consider:

"How is God inviting you to surrender your rights for the sake of unity with one another (for the sake of the Gospel)?"

## CHANGE THROUGH THE YEARS:

*The primary questions of unbelievers & skeptics in the 1960s are:*

- \* Is there a God?
- \* Is Christ the only way to God?
- \* Did Christ rise from the dead?
- \* Are the Bible documents reliable?
- \* Do science and the Bible agree?

*The primary questions of unbelievers & skeptics TODAY are:*

- \* Why are Christians imposing their morality on others?
- \* How can I trust the church that has done terrible things in the name of Christ?
- \* What about different forms of hypocrisy?
- \* Does your belief transform lives?
- \* Does your church serve those who are in need or is it another self-serving group?

\*\*The questions in the first category (from the 1960s) were all biblically based (and the Bible would be used to answer them).

\*\*The questions in the second category (from "today") are more related to how we live our lives as Christians

"The church is uniquely prepared to face this day because we have something that unites us in the midst of our diversity of opinions."

**"If we do not display beauty in the way we treat one another, we destroy the truth we proclaim." - Francis Shaeffer**

**If we want to prove to the people that we love Jesus, then we must love one another.**