

The Path to Harmony
“Like-Mindedness vs Diversity of Belief”
10/16/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Philippians 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 12:16, Romans 15:5-6

Sermon Notes

- We are living in a time where it seems that we see division and discord all around us.
- If you look at it from the world scale you will see nations warring with other nations.
- Here in America you cannot turn on the news without hearing a story of conflict and division, whether that is political division or any other topic you can think of.
- Even in the church you can look and see division and discord all around.
- Over 43,000 Christian denominations exist in the world today. Only 1600 existed in the year 1900.
- Generally speaking, religion has always been something that has brought civilizations together.
- It was a common bond that the people had and even in the midst of turmoil, they could turn to their faith.
- The issue today, as stated above, is that Christianity today finds itself more divided than ever before.
- The reason that you see this division and discord all over the world and within the church is because of one thing: our minds.
- Every division that you can look at in the world starts with a person or group of people’s mindset and beliefs
- In our world today, different opinions and beliefs are encouraged and celebrated.
- If people are thinking along the same lines, they are charged with not being “free thinkers.”
- The problem that has occurred is that absolute truth has been thrown away, and people now feel the truth is relative to what each individual thinks it is.
- This very thought process is the root cause of all of the division that we see in the world today.
- Today we are going to discuss The Path to Harmony and what the Bible teaches about Like-mindedness.
- **Definition of Like-minded: having a like disposition or purpose: of the same mind or habit of thought.**

Philippians 2:1-4

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1 Corinthians 1:10

*¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree with one another** so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may **be perfectly united in mind and thought.***

Romans 12:16

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 15:5-6

*⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement **give you a spirit of unity** among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- All of the Scriptures above show us that the Bible clearly teaches that we should be like-minded, and with each verse you can see that by doing so unity takes place.
- This is not teaching that we should all think the exact same way on all matters.
- These verses are primarily focusing on us having the same mind when it comes to Jesus Christ and our faith.
- The Bible really isn’t addressing what football team you like, make of car you prefer, or type of food.
- God is interested in us being united and agreeing on the fundamental issues that are our core as people.

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- The problem is, that we as a church do not even agree on the most basic and fundamental issues at hand.
- The church cannot even agree on whether or not the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, word of the living God.
- People say that the Bible was written by men and that it wasn't inspired by God.
- They say it contains errors and contradictions.
- Many believe that the truths found in the Bible change depending on the circumstances and the time.
- This causes us to be at odds with many issues that are facing the church today.
- **The church simply cannot be united and harmonious when we cannot even come together and agree on what we believe about our very own faith.**
- There are many people here today that have differing views on a number of topics, but most disturbingly on Biblical issues that the Bible speaks clearly about.
- Even though the world fosters a diversity of belief and diversity of opinions, this is not something that the Bible teaches when it comes to matters of our faith.
- **You are entitled to your own set of opinions, but not your own set of facts.**
- If we want this world to get back to a place where we can be harmonious and united, we have to start with our minds.
- If we here at United Community Church want to be a church that is harmonious and United as our name says, we must be like-minded when it comes to the Bible and what we believe.
- If our minds are all in one accord, then what you will also see is that our actions are in one accord as well.
- God is looking for our thoughts and our actions to be in sync with his will and purpose.
- Romans 15:6 says, “*so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
- As you examine yourself this morning, how like-minded do you feel you are when it comes to the Bible and your faith with others around you?
- If you notice differences of opinion and belief, are those based on personal feelings or are they supported by Scripture?
- If you truly examine yourself and find that many beliefs you hold are based purely on your feelings and opinions, what do you think you should do going forward.
- The Bible should be our source when it comes to matters of our faith and since we are all reading the same Bible, one would think we would all be in perfect harmony.