

# Message Notes

**Joy in Gospel Unity**  
Philippians 2:1-11  
Joy Revolution, part 6  
October 29, 2006

Remember, learning to “Delight Ourselves in the Lord” involves:

1. Willfully choosing
2. Diligently practicing
3. Humbly using the “helps” that God provides:
  - Creation & the Word
  - Prayer & Praise
  - Christian Community

**grace**  
San Luis Obispo

# Message Outline

**Joy in Gospel Unity**  
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## Joy Stream #4 = Gospel Unity

### I. The Motivation for Unity: Why it’s essential...

- A. Because our witness for the Gospel depends on it.
- B. Because the blessings of the Gospel demand it.
  1. *Encouragement in Christ*
  2. *Consolation of love*
  3. *Fellowship of the Spirit*
  4. *Affection and compassion*

### II. The Measure of Unity: What it looks like...

1. Thinking: *being of the same mind*
2. Loving: *maintaining the same love*
3. Caring: *united in spirit*
4. Purposing: *intent on one purpose*

### III. The Model for Unity: How it’s achieved...

1. By focusing myself on Jesus and the Gospel.
2. By devaluing myself in comparison to others.
3. By emptying myself in service to you.
4. By humbling myself in obedience to you.

## Drinking from the Stream . . .

Practice rejoicing in the unity achieved through what Jesus did for us at the cross. Rejoice in the unity we’re experiencing here at Grace. Rejoice in the larger Christian community here on the Central Coast.

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

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### ***Joy in Gospel Unity***

*Philippians 2:1-11*

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1. Read Philippians 2:1-11. How does this section relate to the last in 1:27-30? What is “therefore” at the beginning of 2:1 “there for?” In other words, follow the train of thought.
2. How does Paul motivate the Philippians to unity in 2:1? Is this a “guilt” motivation or a “grace” motivation? What’s the difference? Explain.
3. According to 2:2, what does unity look like? Does this mean we don’t ever disagree or have conflict? Is this unity described natural? How can we tell?
4. In 2:3-5, where Paul goes back and forth between our actions and attitude, identify each phrase as either “action” or “attitude.” How did the attitude of Jesus result in the actions of Jesus which resulted in our unity? What unity does the Gospel achieve?
5. Can you think of any other passages that call Christians to unity? Write them down and share them with the group.

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

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### ***Joy in Gospel Unity***

*Philippians 2:1-11*

*Joy Revolution, part 6*

*October 29, 2006*

1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. We’ve been talking much together about choosing and practicing our delight in the Lord. How difficult has this been for you? Why is this so difficult for us? What are other things in our life that require practice that can give us some help in our delighting in the Lord?
3. Why is unity so much less important to us than it was to Paul? What cultural factors and personal experiences can lead to our not valuing unity like God calls us to?
4. How do these Philippians 2 principles of unity apply in marriage and the family? In personal relationships? In the church? In a larger community?
5. Explore the ravages of division that you’ve seen or experienced? What are the causes of these divisions according to James 4:1? Have you found this to be true? Is it possible to “disagree agreeably?” What does that look like?
6. Explore the blessings, power and impact of unity. Can you think of Scriptural examples? Can you recall personal examples?