



Big Idea: Joy is the product of our oneness in Christ.

-- v. 1a – *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ...”*

-- To be **United** to Christ is to be immensely, eternally encouraged.

-- v. 1b – *“...if any comfort from His love...”*

-- To understand Christ’s love is to be **Comforted** completely.

-- v. 1c – *“...if any fellowship with the Spirit...”*

-- *“fellowship”* = “shared participation, close association”

-- If we are in Christ, we have blessed fellowship with the Spirit indeed.

-- v. 1d – *“...if any tenderness and compassion...”*

-- Literally, “tenderness” = “bowels, guts”

-- In Jewish culture, the bowels were seen as the seat of emotions.

-- The Spirit helps us feel what God feels, giving us tenderness and compassion.

-- If we feel what God feels, we will **Obey** what He commands.

-- John MacArthur – “Obedience is a very personal response to a very personal relationship.”

-- v. 2a – *“Make my joy complete...”*

-- Since you have infinite encouragement in Christ (v. 1a), live to be an **Encouragement** to others, especially those in the church.

-- Because we are being given such joy in Christ, we ought to live as joy givers.

-- *Are people strengthened in joy because you are around?*

-- v. 2b – *“...by being like-minded...”*

-- Unity begins in our **Minds**. We are called to think the same way (1 Corinthians 1:10).

-- On the major issues, we think the same way because we recognize and honor the supreme authority of Scripture.

- v. 2c – “...having the same love...”

-- Do not to show **Favoreitism**, but shower the love of Christ on every member of the church (James 2:1-4).

-- v. 2d – “...being one in spirit and purpose...”

-- Our union with Christ is, at the same time, union with **Each Other**.

-- We are one body in Christ (1 Corinthians 12)

-- We are one bride of Christ (Ephesians 5).

-- We are one building in Christ (Ephesians 2).

-- Since oneness is our **Position** in Christ, it ought to be our **Pursuit** in everything.

Notice the “if/then” construction of this passage.

-- In these two verses, four if’s lead to a four-part then.

-- *“If any encouragement from being united with Christ... then make my joy complete.”*

-- Since we have such encouragement in Christ, we should be an encouragement in Christ.

-- *“If any comfort from His love... then be like-minded.”*

-- Since we are reconciled to God and each other by the love God in Christ, let us agree to love each other with the love we have received!

-- *“If any fellowship with the Spirit... then have the same love.”*

-- Since we are all indwelt by the Holy Spirit, let us love every believer among us with the same love!

-- *“If any tenderness and compassion... then be one in Spirit and purpose.”*

-- In essence, Paul is saying, *“...if you really understand what you claim to believe, then be united in spirit and in purpose!”*

-- If oneness in Christ with a local body of believers is not a passionate pursuit of our lives, then we misunderstand what Christ died to accomplish.

-- If we understand our union with Christ then we will pursue **Oneness** in Him with a local body of believers.