

## Be of the Same Mind

**Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind [*proud*], but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. (Romans 12:16)**

We are exhorted to be of the same mind with fellow believers in several instances in Scripture. One aspect of being of the same mind is described as an expression of humility. That is, we should not consider ourselves as better than our fellow brethren, nor anyone for that matter. In his letter to the brethren in Rome, Paul cautioned them to not think of themselves as more privileged or deserving than others but to adjust themselves to, and humbly associate with, people of lower social position.

Before we were saved by the grace of God, we were all dead in sin and walked according to the futility of our own minds (Ephesians 2:1-7; 4:17-24). When we believe the gospel of salvation, every believer is forgiven by God and blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3; 4:32)—we are one in Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Ephesians 4:4-6). The Apostle Paul did not pre-judge others as to whether he should share the gospel of grace with them; he did not consider himself superior to them. Instead, he recognized and empathized with all types of people, regardless of their spiritual background or social status, to share the gospel without prejudice and yet without compromising the word of God.

**Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord [*mind*] you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7)**

**For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave [*servant*] to all, so that I may win [*gain*] more [*for salvation*]. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. (I Corinthians 9:19-23)**

I believe that Scripture explains other ways to be of the same mind with our fellow brethren. God wants us to speak the truth (instead of lying) with each other and with all our neighbors. There is an additional aspect of speaking the truth that is integral to our walk as believers but is often overlooked or, perhaps, intentionally disregarded by believers. In Paul's letter to his beloved brethren in Philippi, he encouraged and implored them to truly fellowship in love by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, being in full accord, and being intent on one purpose. What did he mean by this?

**Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my [*Paul's*] joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit [*of one accord*], intent on one purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2)**

Being of the same mind involved having a common purpose based on a solid spiritual foundation. Their foundation was the truth of the word of God as taught to them by the Apostle Paul and his coworkers. More specifically, it was the gospel of the grace of God that was revealed to them (and to us through

Paul's letters), according to the revelation of the mystery that had been committed to Paul. Do we have the same purpose and foundation?

**Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I [*Paul*] come and see you [*Philippian believers*] or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.**

(Philippians 1:27-30)