


Madison Heights Christian Church   
(Disciples of Christ)  
149 Main Street  
Madison Heights, VA 24572

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## MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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### To Copy Christ

While the Apostle Paul was in prison the Philippian church sent gifts for his care and prayed for his release. Paul's letter to them is a letter of joy and reassurance which seems quite unusual for someone in prison. Paul's perspective is that despite all of his hardship he has found great satisfaction. So, he focused on the joy and satisfaction that comes from something that is much more important than any hardships that he faces. He is happy in prison because the gospel is advancing. The efforts to stop Paul did not stop the spread of the gospel. Paul is in prison for the same reason they killed Jesus – to protect the status quo and stop the spread of gospel.

Paul's theology is that we are to copy Christ. The focus of his letter to the Phillipian church is Christ. Our response to Jesus is a matter of surrendering your life from this world to a life modeled after Christ. We are to respond to Christ with the unity and humility that is illustrated by the life of Jesus. We are to copy Christ. When we focus on Christ, we do not focus on our own problems, worries, or whatever may be bothering us at the time. There is no conflict when we are all of one mind. That one mind is the same mind as Christ. Focus on what Jesus said and did. Model your life after the attitude of Jesus. Christianity is a call for action to reorient your life like that of Jesus. Adopt his attitude and behavior, treat people like he treats people, and love others like he loves others.

I preach this concept many times because it is taught in the Bible in many different places. It is the same concept of being born again. Focusing your life on Christ means separating yourself from desires that society reinforces and not following the ways of the world. There is a powerful contemporary lesson in the call for unity. The call for unity is for us to be like Christ. We are all united together with love, compassion, sacrifice, and service. When we are one with Christ we all get along together in unity because we are of one mind, heart, and spirit.

The Apostle Paul's doctrine is centered on what Jesus said and did. It is all about you and your relationship with the Lord. When you are in the right relationship with the Lord, you are in the right relationship with others. It is all about you living your life in accord with Christ. It is when we model our lives after Christ that we are one with Jesus and then we are all in harmony with one another. It is individual preferences that separate us. We will never agree on doctrine and creeds or what others should and should not believe. We are united when all can agree and the one thing we can all agree upon is Christ centered doctrine.

The Holy Communion is a perfect example of unity set up for us by Jesus Christ himself. It is an invitation to all and we are all welcome. We are all invited. The table is a place where family and friends gather. The offering is Jesus offering of himself. So, we share together his body and his blood and then we have Christ in us. Communion is oneness with Christ.

We are united together and we all get along in harmony because we surrender our lives to Christ. Everyone is to be the person that Jesus teaches us to be, obey the lessons of the teacher and follow in his footsteps. It is when we are focused on Jesus that we are all in unity and are all in accord with one another.

Thank you,

*George*