

Keys to Effective Ministry



Phil. 1:27 – 2:4

Quotable:

“The person who **loves their dream** of community will destroy community, but the person who **loves those around them** will create community.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “Life Together”



cov*d effect: it wasn't your imagination...

- polarization, migration
- pastoral stress/pain
- only 39% of churches reacted in unified way
- wounds still not healed





Gospel-Centered Conduct (1:27a)

- live in a way that reflects the worth of the gospel
- live as citizens of heaven
- call to integrity and consistency



Unity and Collective Striving (1:27b)

- implied are church unity issues (cf 4:1)
- individually: stand firm in one spirit
- collectively: strive together (lit. alongside)
- active unity, not passive



Courage with opposition (1:28-30)

- suffering: a gift from God?
- suffering: a positive sign for us?
- encouragement to resilience from a fellow sufferer



Unity in the faith (2:1-2)

- “if...”: rhetorical – consider if these qualities exist in your life
- foundations for unity: love, fellowship, compassion
- unity of purpose; agreeableness despite differences
- practical and relational, shaping how we are to interact



Unity through humility (2:3-4)

- humility: antidote to division
- serving: antidote to egos and kingdom building
- radical reorientation: from self-focus to community care



Ponder/reflect...

- Am I working toward the same goals as other believers, despite differences?
- Is something or someone bothering me that shouldn't?
- How well do I model an agreeable spirit? How might others view me?
- How well do I put the needs of others before mine?

