Does My Perspective Bring People Together?

Brent Moody · Philippians 2:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- If we knew the whole story, if we really sought to understand from other people's perspectives, would that change the way that we view things?
- It is this guiding principle for those who are Christians, for those who are God's people, that we filter our life and our actions through the cross.
- Difficulty threatens unity. And we have to be aware of that.

1 Unity Requires Looking Inward First

Philippians 2:1–2; Philippians 4:8

- The first thing we have to understand if we are going to maintain unity is that unity requires looking inward first.
- Really, the question we have to ask is what kind of person am I?
- I can be in the midst of very trying and difficult times and still be an encourager. I can still show affection. I can still be sympathetic.
- This is not about fully agreeing in every single detail about everything.
- It's actually about how we interact with people when we don't agree.
- What we're talking about right here needs to apply to me, to self.

2 Look Outward to the Interest of Others

Philippians 2:3–4; 1 Corinthians 9:12

- Paul tells us we have to look outward, but maybe not in the way we're used to, maybe not to criticize or to cast down or to find every little error, but actually to look to their interest.
- Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
- It's not that we neglect our own interests and never think about what we need or the things that would be good for us.
- Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
- If voicing my opinion or forcing others to see my right, is putting an obstacle in the way of the gospel, I have gone too far.
- It doesn't mean I have to always cave to everyone else's wishes. But I better really take care with my views and the way that I express them.

3 Seek to Hear, Not Just to Be Heard

1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Peter 5

- We need to be the kind of people that seek to hear, not just to be heard.
- What people want most is to be heard.
- Most situations could be solved in a great way if we have this concept that we seek to hear people rather than just waiting to say what we want to say.
- Realize sometimes we haven't heard as much as we think we've heard. Because we're mostly hearing people who say the same things we say.
- Paul says in 1 Corinthians 8 and verse 1, knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.
- Our most important thought should be that we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness with God's people, not being a divisive influence.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's make a commitment that we're going to show love and affection to each other. That we're going to deal in truth, that we're going to focus on our fellowship, the relationship that we have in Jesus Christ.

MY NOTES