

“Jesus’ Prayer for CBC”

John 17: 20-23; Philippians 2:1-11

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December 6, 2009

I. Jesus’ prayer for CBC is unity. (John 17:20-23)

II. How do we walk in unity?

**A. Do nothing out of selfish ambition.
(Philippians 2:2-4)**

How does your selfish ambition hinder your unity in relationships?

B. In humility, consider others better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3-4)

How does pride in your heart hinder unity in your relationships?

C. Have the attitude of Christ who laid down His rights. (Philippians 2:5-11)

How does holding on to your rights hinder unity in your relationships?

“How, practically, can we curb the temptations to assert our rights over others? In his superb essay on how Christians should live together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer supplies seven principles for eradicating selfish ambition from Christian communities. Christians, he says, should:

- hold their tongues, refusing to speak uncharitably about a Christian brother;
- cultivate the humility that comes from understanding that they, like Paul, are the greatest of sinners and can only live in God’s sight by his grace;
- listen “long and patiently” so that they will understand their fellow Christian’s need;
- refuse to consider their time and calling so valuable that they cannot be interrupted to help with unexpected needs, no matter how small or menial;
- bear the burden of their brothers and sisters in the Lord, both by preserving their freedom and by forgiving their sinful abuse of that freedom;
- declare God’s word to their fellow believers when they need to hear it;
- understand that Christian authority is characterized by service and does not call attention to the person who performs the service.”

Frank Thielman, *The NIV Application Commentary: Philippians*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1995, p. 107.