

Introduction:

A. At the heart of this letter:

1. The exhortation to “**stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together ...**” Phil. 1:27
2. To maintain **the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.** Phil. 2:2
3. To **do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility ...** Phil. 2:3

B. So many of us as Christians, however, are beset by our own sinful ways: pride, arrogance, selfishness, and worldliness.

1. **The result:** conflict and strife among people ... even among our own brethren we love.
2. If we are to grow as a body – our thoughts and deeds need to be “likeminded” in Christ.

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Discussion:

I. Likeminded in Thought

A. Our thoughts are the key to how we walk before God and maintain fellowship among brethren.

1. As a man *thinks in his heart, so he is.* Prov. 23:7
2. While our thoughts do not always manifest itself outwardly ... they reveal exactly the kind of person we are before God.

B. Our thoughts need to center on the well-being of others. Phil. 2:3-4

1. We may all be equal in Christ, but our attitude should reflect a humility that esteems others as more important than self. Gal. 3:28

II. Likeminded in Deeds

A. Out of the abundance of the heart a man speaks (and acts).

1. A person with an evil heart eventually produces fruit representative of it. Lk. 6:45
2. Those with a good and noble heart speak the truth in love. Eph. 4:14-16

B. Our heart manifests itself by the way we speak about others. Jas. 3:13-18

1. Thus, our actions are very telling about what resides within the heart.
2. It will exude either the wisdom of God or Satan’s chaos and division.

C. Applying Paul’s exhortation.

1. Our speech and behavior should reflect both humility and the interest of our brethren.
2. This cannot happen, however, without emptying ourselves ... THAT is at the heart of being “likeminded”.

Conclusion:

- A. What do your thoughts, speech and behavior reveal about you?
- B. If you want to grow in the Lord be likeminded in Christ and see how effective the body of Christ can be.