

Homily – September 27, 2026

So, when I think about being of one mind and working together, one of the movies that comes to mind is an old movie now. It was in the early 2000s. It was called Drumline. And it was about Devin. You obviously have seen it. It was about Devin, who in high school was this hot shot drummer. And he was a little bit of a show boater. And the high school loved him. And he went away to this college expecting to be able to have that same space to just show off and use his talent and just, again, be the focus.

Well, he got to college, and that wasn't how the drum line worked. The drum line was one group focused on one vision that all sounded good together. Well, Devin kept trying to showboat and eventually, Devin got put to the side and he was allowed to practice with them, but he wasn't allowed to perform on the games.

And he was told by the band director, Dr. Lee, over and over again, this is about the whole drumline. This isn't just about you. And as the movie progresses, we see the tension in the group as Devin tries to showboat. But then, by the end of the movie, we see Devin realize that his talents really shine when they are expressed in the shared vision of the band. Devin finally earns the respect by not asserting dominance, but rather contributing to the whole band's success.

In our text today in Philippians, we hear Paul talk to this community and say, Make my joy complete. Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. You know, I think the lessons illustrated in Drumline might be what Paul is talking about as he writes to the people of Philippi. And even invites us as the church of the 21st century to consider how we are church together.

True wholeness, true health, no matter whether it's in music or church or in an organization, comes when we have set aside our own ego and we align to the vision of the church, of the organization, and we work in harmony with a shared purpose. Under the guidance of a unifying mind, in the moving, it was Dr. Lee. In our church, it is Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Now think about it. These last few weeks, we've heard Matthew talk about the breaking in of the kingdom of God. Can you imagine if every church in the world was centered on the vision of Christ and had one mind? Can you imagine what might happen in this world? That certainly would be the inbreaking of the kingdom of God.

you know but i wonder if that's possible is that possible in the world in which we live that stresses individuality and success and be a star

you know we all know when you put two people in a room eventually there will be disagreement and when you put a whole faith community in a room, what happens? There's differences in personality. There's differences in style of music, of tradition, of

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opinions about what should happen next, how we should use our resources to further God's mission and ministry. And sometimes there's even more color to paint the church.

So what does Paul really mean when he says be of one mind? He doesn't want us to be clones of each other. He doesn't want us to be just twins.

We have been created individually to be our own identity that God has created. Christian unity is not uniformity.

Paul says, this is what he means. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ. That is the core, the center, Christ. Our unity is not found in everyone getting his or her own way, or even the pastor getting his or her own way. It is found in Christ. Paul reminds us that we are able to be of the same mind when we live this way. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourself.

I know this is kind of where the rub happens. Our humanity, our brokenness, our sinful nature makes it challenging for us to be of one mind found in Christ.

How much of us always, we want to be right. We want to be noticed. We want our preferences honored. And if we're not careful, sometimes our service to others can quietly become a way that we call attention of our works rather than of the work of God.

Sin curves us inward into ourselves. That's truly the definition of sin, being focused on ourselves.

And when we're curved inward, community begins to fall apart.

Paul doesn't solve it by simply telling us, you know, be humble. He points to Jesus, to the cross. Christ Jesus was in the form of God and in the form of the Son of Man, and yet Christ didn't use his mission for his own advantage. Think about it. He emptied and humbled himself. He took the form of a servant kneeling at the feet of his disciples to wash their feet on their last night together.

He was obedient to death on the cross.

You know, think about it. When we want to climb, Jesus descends. When we grasp, Jesus gives. when we protect ourselves Jesus gives himself away and he does it for you he does it for me he does it for the entire world you know this cross is not about what we accomplish for God this cross is the proclamation of what God has accomplished through us through Christ's sacrificial death triumphant resurrection and ascension.

Our sins are forgiven. Let me say that one more time. I hope if you don't hear anything else today, I hope you hear our sins are forgiven. Our failures are carried by Christ. Our pride, our selfishness, our resentment, our desire to have our own way taken and continue to be

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taken to the cross. And the one who died has been exalted, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

So how do we go about living as individuals and communities, but letting the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus?

It begins by looking at one another, but by looking together through Christ. Christ creates church unity, not us. We come together as sinners, as broken people around our Savior.

We are all beggars asking for God's mercy, God's forgiveness, God's salvation, and being granted it.

We come to the same font. We hear the same word of forgiveness. We gather around the same table. And we come with empty hands and receive Christ's gift of love and mercy. And we can depend upon Christ who sets us free.

Think about that freedom that is indeed found in Christ. Freedom from always needing to win. Freedom from always needing the last word. Freedom to listen to hear, not listen to respond.

We are free to forgive and to accept forgiveness. And especially free to love and serve our neighbors.

So Paul invites us to be like-minded in Christ. Not because we finally become good enough at loving one another, but because the crucified and risen Christ lives and walks among us. and his name every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. May the Holy Spirit give us the power for the same mind to be in us that was in Christ Jesus.

I don't know Deanna is there a video after this slide sermon that talks about, we are one in the spirit?

There might not be.

There is a song that talks about we are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in love. And there were so many examples of how we could be one in the spirit and in Christ's love. But you will have to look at YouTube and find it yourself. It's your own journey. It's your homework today when you go home.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.