

## The Test of Community Life is Philippians 2:1

**Phil 2:1 is the test of community life. It determines any further progress into maturity so as to know Messiah. Do we know Him to the extent that we are going to attain to the first resurrection? (Phil 3:10). The four “ifs” in Phil 2:1 mean, “since there is” *encouragement, consolation, fellowship, affection and compassion*. But many are not experiencing it for reasons they know, but won't do what is necessary to experience it.**

Phil 2:1 is the test of your own experience, of your own life in the Edah:

1. Of being one with or in Messiah;
2. Of having comfort from His love;
3. Of having any fellowship with the Spirit;
4. Of having any tenderness and compassion.

Phil 2:2 – Then, and only then, can we all be like minded, having the same love, being one in Spirit and purpose.

We won't be doing works out of selfish ambition and vain conceit, but in humility we will be considering others better than ourselves, looking to the interests of others also, and having the same mind as that of Messiah (Phil 2:3).

Phil 2:1 – To belong to Messiah is to belong to Him. It is to be baptized into Him – to have an intimate, personal relationship with Him expressed through the Body. The NIV translation uses the word *ministered*.

1 Cor 12:20-27 and Eph 4:12-16 – From being in Messiah, from the relationship with Him, come all the other fruits of salvation like:

5. Encouragement from His love (Heb 3:13);
2. Comfort from His love (1 Jn 3:16; 4:9,10,16);
3. Fellowship with the Spirit – the fellowship in the community is produced by the Spirit who indwells each one of them (2 Cor 13:14);
4. Tenderness and compassion – the deep care and sympathy for each other as we live together in the spirit (Col 3:12-17).

All these benefits are ours in Messiah, but not if we are not in Him. If you are not expressing them, and others are, then judge yourself, not the Body of Messiah. All these benefits — encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness and compassion — are realities that are in Messiah for every place (Rev 2:4-5).

Phil 2:2 – *Then* (in the NIV), Paul says, there is no excuse for not being one as 1 Cor 1:10 says. Phil 2:2 – *Then* be like minded with one another who are enjoying all these benefits. *Then* means *that being so*. There is no excuse, then, for not being like minded and having the same love and care for one another (1 Cor 12:25), being one in Spirit (Eph 4:2-3; Jn 17:23; 13:34-35). Jn 13:35 is the test of whether one is in Messiah or not. We have one purpose, and that is: Jn 17:23; Dan 2:44; Isa 49:6; Mt 21:43; 24:14; Rev 11:15; 20:1-2; 21:9,12.

Do nothing, then, out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. These are mortal enemies of the temple of God (1 Cor 1:10,13; 3:1-3). Humility is the source of unity, receiving one another out of reverence for Messiah (Eph 5:21). Unless we are all experiencing what Paul says in Phil 2:1 is essential for all in Messiah to experience, then there is no way to progress any further. But don't forget Phil 1:29. Don't forget that we must suffer with Him, and be persecuted (Mk 10:30; 2 Tim 3:12). This is certain.

Phil 2:1 speaks of the life we live in Messiah, and 2 Tim 3:12 says all who desire to live godly in Messiah will be persecuted. Mk 10:30 promises persecution (Jn 15:20-21). Mt 5:12 – But it is righteous if you have given up all things to be His disciple. Then Phil 2:1 is your own experience – to become a servant (Jn 12:26).

### **Saints of the Most High**

**Remember those who persecute you do not know Him who sent Messiah (Jn 15:21). They are of the**

**world (Jn 15:18-19). The one who persecutes is not of God. As Luther or the Catholics are not of God since they persecuted even those who were not God's people. God's people do not persecute those who are not of God, regardless of how evil they may be. Persecute** means to oppress (Dan 7:25) by ill treatment.

Rev 17:6 and Rev 18:19-20 – Any “church” or Christian organization that is guilty of persecuting, oppressing another group, or church, or Christian organization is not of God. Persecution is usually because of religion, or racial differences, etc. Persecute is also to say things that are not true about a group.

Dan 7:25 – He shall persecute the saints of the Most High. This cannot be Christianity that is being persecuted or oppressed, since they could not be “saints” of the Most High. Christianity has persecuted other groups, those on the fringes, etc., all down through history. Dan 7:27 – The saints are given the kingdom (Dan 7:18,14 in the NRSV).

The Most High (Dan 7:25) — the beast shall speak against the Most High, and persecute the saints of the Most High – oppress them, wear them out. The people, the saints of the Most High (Dan 7:27), will be the kingdom all over the earth. It will be an everlasting kingdom as Dan 2:35,44 prophesies.

Christianity shall be destroyed. That is everyone who is a Christian and goes to church on Sunday morning between 11 and 12, in every time zone on the earth. This will be the fulfillment of Rev 18:8,17,19; 17:16; 18:4, 6,7,8,10,17,19. Rev 18:19-20 – Christianity persecuted the saints of the Most High.

Isa 53:10 – Prolong his days (Jn 21:22) —*prolong* means to remain alive until He returns — prolong, lengthen, protract, and carry on, to carry out, continue, lengthen his days so that he won't see death.

Mt 24:34 – These are the saints of the Most High.

The saints love as their Master loved. Jn 21:15-17 – He asked Peter twice whether he had *agape* love, or *ahava h* in Hebrew. Peter answered with *phileo*, which at that time was all he had to love with, until the Holy Spirit came upon him (Rom 5:5) to love with (Jn 13:34-35). Peter had an affectionate love for Him, and a personal attachment to Him, but before He was crucified that kind of love was not enough.

Then after, only after he received the Holy Spirit in power upon him on the day of Pentecost, could he love with that love which our Master asked whether he had for Him. Peter used the word *agape* or *ahava h* nine times in his letter, which he wrote to the churches (1 Pet 1:8,22 and 4:8).

1 Pet 1:22 – Sincere love (#505) means without falsehood, genuine, without hypocrisy, not just acting like it, without “putting on.” The word *sincere* means literally *without hypocrisy*, since by obeying the truth we can love with a pure heart.