I. A Healthy Reminder of Our Vertical Experience (1)

A. We are spiritually strengthened - "So if there is any <u>encouragement in Christ</u>..."

B. We are reassured about our burdens - "...any comfort from love..."

C. We are always accompanied - "...any <u>participation</u> in the Spirit..."

D. We are deeply touched within - "...any <u>affection</u> and <u>sympathy</u>..." affection = bowels, innards

**II. A Clear Expectation for Our Horizontal Experience (2-7)** 

A. Intentional pursuit of unity (2) - "...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

B. Perpetual commitment to deeper humility (3) - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

C. A pursuit of advancing others (4) - "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

D. A refusal to live in self-promotion or preservation (5-8) - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

## III. The Full Context for Our Entire Experience (9-11) THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

A. Where our focus rests (9) - "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name..."

B. Where our will bows in honor (10) - "...so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth..."

C. What our mouths & lives proclaim (11) - "...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."