

Philippians 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Analysis

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies (Εἴ τις οὖν παράκλησις ἐν Χριστῷ, εἴ τι παραμύθιον ἀγάπης, εἴ τις κοινωνία πνεύματος, εἴ τις σπλάγχνα καὶ οἰκτιρμοί, Ei tis oun paraklēsis en Christō, ei ti paramythion agapēs, ei tis koinōnia pneumatos, ei tis splanchna kai oiktirmoi)—Four ei tis ("if any") clauses aren't expressing doubt but assume reality: "since there is..." The fourfold appeal establishes grounds for Paul's coming exhortation (v. 2).

Paraklēsis ("encouragement, consolation") and paramythion ("comfort, solace") overlap semantically—strengthening through presence and words. **Fellowship of the Spirit** (κοινωνία πνεύματος, koinōnia pneumatos) could mean fellowship with the Spirit or fellowship produced by the Spirit (likely both). Splanchna ("bowels, compassion," see 1:8) and oiktirmoi ("mercies, compassion") are near-synonyms emphasizing tender affection. Paul grounds his appeal in Trinitarian realities: Christ's consolation, love's comfort, Spirit's fellowship, divine compassion.

Historical Context

Ancient rhetoric used ei tis constructions to build arguments from shared premises. Paul assumes Philippian believers have experienced these spiritual realities—they're not theoretical but experiential foundations. The appeal to

shared experience in Christ creates basis for ethical exhortation. Ancient letters often used argumentation from mutual affection before making requests.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How have you personally experienced 'consolation in Christ' or 'fellowship of the Spirit' recently?
2. Why does Paul ground his ethical appeal in Trinitarian realities before stating his request?
3. Which of these four realities (consolation, comfort, fellowship, compassion) do you most need to remember?

Interlinear Text

Εἴ	τις	οὖν	παράκλησις	ἐν	Χριστῷ	εἴ	τι
G1487	G5100	If there be therefore	G3874	G1722	G5547	G1487	G5100
		G3767					
παραμύθιον	ἀγάπης	εἴ	τις	κοινωνία	πνεύματος	εἴ	
comfort	of love	G1487	G5100	fellowship	of the Spirit	G1487	
G3890	G26			G2842	G4151		
τινα	σπλάγχνα	καὶ	οἰκτιρμοί				
G5100	bowels	and	mercies				
	G4698	G2532	G3628				

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:12 (Love): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

1 John 4:12 (Love): No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Love): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Colossians 2:2 (Love): That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

1 Corinthians 12:13 (Spirit): For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Psalms 133:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Galatians 5:22 (Love): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 4:6 (Spirit): And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Acts 4:32 (Parallel theme): And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.