

Series LOGO

Sacred Assembly Slide (If comms has one)

New Year = New Me

IMAGE: New Year's resolutions: emailed to Darline & link below:

<https://www.statista.com/chart/29019/most-common-new-years-resolutions-us/>

The most quit resolutions:

- Lose Weight and Get Fit
- Quit Smoking
- Learn Something New
- Eat Healthier and Diet
- Get Out of Debt and Save Money
- Spend More Time with Family
- Travel to New Places

{one slide} Only 9% of Americans keep their resolutions throughout the year.

{one slide} New Year = New Me

{one slide} Same Jesus → Same Word → Applied in me = New Me → Looks more like Jesus

Philippians 2:1-2

If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

God calls His people to a sacred union with Christ.

"...encouragement in Christ..."

Philippians 3:7-8a

But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ...

"if any consolation (other versions - comfort) of love,..."

Philippians 1:8

For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

"if any fellowship with the Spirit..."

"if any affection and mercy..."

Romans 5:8

But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Our sacred union with Christ changes our outlook on our past, present, and future.

Philippians 2:2

.... make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

God calls His people to a unified community in Christ.

What does this kind of unified community look like?

We will never accidentally land at unity. It is a choice that we must make early and often.

We are united to His people in:

- Our minds:

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

What and how you think about God's purpose will guide your decisions and behavior.

We are united to His people in:

- Our **minds**
- Our **love**

Philippians 1:7

Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart...

1 John 4:11-12:

Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, **God remains in us and his love is made complete in us.**

We are united to His people in:

- Our **minds**
- Our **love**
- Our **spirit**

We are united to His people in:

- Our **minds**
- Our **love**
- Our **spirit**
- Our **purpose**

How does this work itself out?

Philippians 2:3a

Do **nothing** out of **selfish ambition or conceit** ...

Self-seeking and pride are **currency** in our culture.

Philippians 2:3b-4

... but **in humility** consider others as **more important than yourselves**. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to **the interests of others**.

*"Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all."
-Andrew Murray*

A way to fight the small, me-centered focus is to **be with the people of God**.

Philippians 2:5-6

Adopt the **same attitude** as that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited.

Our faith lacks power, when we admire Jesus instead of **imitating Him**.

What would be the **impact** on my life if I adopted the **attitude of Jesus**?

Philippians 2:7-8

Instead **he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant**, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ **he humbled himself by becoming obedient** to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

This sacrificial obedience prioritized fulfilling God's will and purchasing our salvation over Himself.

Philippians 2:9

For this reason **God highly exalted him** and gave him the name that is above every name ...

Philippians 2:10-11

... so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow**—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—¹¹ and every tongue will confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**.

God calls His people to imitate and adore Christ.

God calling you/me/us to:

- **Union with Christ**
- **Unified community with His people**
- **Imitate and Adore Jesus**

