

LESSON 5: The Great Example

In Chapter 2, we find the thief of Joy: _____. Paul was facing this problem with people at Rome (*Philippians 1:15-18*), as well as with the people in Philippi. It was the latter that concerned him most. Epaphroditus brought a generous gift from the church in Philippi, and good news of the church's concern for Paul, but he also brought the bad news of a possible division in the church family. Apparently, there was a double threat to the unity of the church: false teachers coming in from without (*Philippians 3:1-3*) and disagreeing members within (*Philippians 4:1-3*). Paul does not say what Euodia (fragrance) and Syntyche (fortunate) were debating about.

Paul knew what some church workers today do not know: there is a difference between _____ and _____. True unity comes _____. It is _____. Is the result of _____. or _____.

This is why Paul opens this section of his letter by appealing to the highest possible spiritual _____ (*Philippians 2:1-4*). Since believers are "in Christ," their "in Christ" position should encourage them to work towards unity and love and not to yield to division and rivalry. Paul is graciously saying, "Your disagreements reveal that there is a spiritual problem in your fellowship. It won't be solved by rules or threats, but it will be solved when your hearts get right with Christ and with each other." The basic problem was _____, and the cause of selfishness is _____.

There can be no joy in the life of a Christian who puts "self" above others. The secret of joy in spite of circumstances is _____. The secret of joy

In spite of people is _____. The key verse for these "Joy secrets" is *Philippians 2:3*, which reads, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better (more Important) than themselves."*

Chapter One is about "_____."

Chapter Two is about "_____!!!"

We must understand Bible humility. The Biblical humble person is not one who thinks mean of himself, but rather one _____.

Jesus illustrates the submissive mind as having _____:

1. He thinks of _____ (*Philippians 2:5-6*). The "mind of Christ" means "to have the attitude Christ exhibited." "Form" means _____. Jesus did not consider His equality with God as something to be selfishly held on to. ("I can't keep my privileges to myself. I must use them _____.")

- More than twenty times in the New Testament, God instructs us to live with "_____:"

_____ *Romans 12:10*

_____ *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

_____ *Galatians 6:2*

_____ *Romans 14:3*

_____ *Romans 15:14*

2. He serves (*Philippians 2:7*). Thinking of one another is good, but we must get down to true service. Paul traces Jesus' steps in His self-humbling process:

A. He emptied himself. He _____.

B. He permanently became a _____, in a physical body.

C. He used that body to be a _____.

D. He took that body to the cross and willingly died. *"Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)*

3. He sacrifices (*Philippians 2:8*): *"Jesus became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* It was the death of a Savior. He willingly laid down His life for the sins of the world. Dr. J. H. Jowett has said, "_____ _____ _____ _____ accomplishes nothing." If there is to be any _____, there must be _____ _____. Sacrifice and service go together.

- The test of the submissive mind is not just how much we are willing to take in terms of suffering, but how much we _____.

4. He glorifies God. Paul warns against "vainglory" (service that is to _____). "Vainglory" pits Christian against Christian and ministry against ministry. _____. "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time" (**1 Peter 5:6**).

- Now Paul has just presented Jesus as our great example in the exercise of the submissive mind. We read it, and we agree with it, but how do we go about practicing it? Jesus has now become our _____, but there is also a divine power enabling us to accomplish it. It is not by _____ but by _____. **Galatians 2:20** says that Christ "liveth in me." God works it in, and we work it out.

1. There is _____ to achieve (**Philippians 2:12, 14-16**). "Work out your own salvation" does not mean "work _____ your own salvation," for we have already become saints by trusting in Him. Rather, it means "_____," such as working out a problem in mathematics. The purpose God wants us to work toward is Christlikeness, to be conformed to His image. There are _____ in this life, but God will help us "_____."

2. There is a _____ to receive (**Philippians 2:13**). The principle Paul lays down is this: _____. The power that works in us is the power of the Holy Spirit (**John 14:16-17**). The Holy Spirit also uses three tools to work in us:

A. He uses the _____. We must _____ the Word(_____); we must _____ the Word(_____); we must _____ the Word (_____ **1** *Thessalonians 2:13*).

B. He uses _____. The Holy Spirit is closely related to the practice of prayer in our lives and in our infirmities (*Romans 8:26-27*).

C. He uses _____ (*Romans 5:3-5*). This is process, not sin.

3. There is a _____ to believe (*Philippians 2:16-18*). What is the promise? That joy comes from submission. The world's philosophy is that joy comes from aggression. Fight everybody to get what you want, and you will get it and be happy. Jesus' example shows this philosophy to be wrong. He never used a sword or any other weapon, yet He won the greatest battle in history: the battle against sin, death and hell. He defeated _____ by manifesting _____. He overcame lies with Truth. Because He _____, He was victorious. We must dare to believe *Luke 14:11: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*

This joy that comes from _____ can be ours today!! It takes faith to exercise the submissive mind. We must believe that God's promises are true and that they will work for us just as they did for Paul.

LESSON 6: The Priceless Pair

Paul is still discussing the submissive mind. Now he introduces us to two of his helpers in the ministry: _____ and Epaphroditus, and he does so for a reason. He knows that his readers will be prone to say, "It is impossible to follow such examples as Jesus and Paul. After all, Jesus is the very Son of God, and Paul is a chosen apostle who has had great spiritual experiences!" For this reason, Paul introduces us to two "ordinary saints—"men who were not apostles or spectacular miracle-workers. He wants us to know that the submissive mind is not a luxury to be enjoyed by a chosen few, _____
_____.

1. Timothy (*Philippians 2:19-24*). Paul probably met Timothy on his first missionary journey at which time, perhaps, Timothy was converted. He was the son of a Jewish mother and a Gentile father, but Paul always considered Timothy his own "dearly beloved son" in the faith. Timothy had to cultivate the "mind of Christ." It was not natural for him to be a _____, but, as he walked with the Lord and worked with Paul, he became the kind of servant Paul could trust and God could bless. Facts about Timothy are:

- A. He had a servant's _____ (*Philippians 2:19-21*). "*All seek their own, not the things which are Christ Jesus's.*" Timothy was

- B. He had a servant's _____ (*Philippians 2:22*). Paul did not add Timothy to the "team" _____, but several years later when Paul returned to the area, he was happy to discover that young Timothy was "well reported of the

brethren" (**Acts 16:2**). Paul taught Timothy the Word and permitted Timothy to watch him in ministry (**2 Timothy 3:10-17**).

C. He had a servant's _____ (**Philippians 2:23**). God rewarded Timothy for his faithfulness. He had the joy of serving with the great Apostle Paul and of assisting him in some of his most difficult assignments (**1 Corinthians 4:17**). Timothy is mentioned at least twenty-four times in Paul's letters, but perhaps Timothy's greatest honor was not being called Paul's son and Paul's servant but being designated Paul's _____. Paul sent Timothy to Philippi in his place.

- Timothy's name is held in high regard today. Like Timothy, we must allow a _____ to grow in us also.

2. Epaphroditus (**Philippians 2:25-30**). Epaphroditus was a full Gentile. A member of the Philippian church, he risked his health and his life to carry the Philippians missionary offering to Paul in Rome. His name means _____, and he was.

A. He was a balanced Christian (**Philippians 2:25**). Paul couldn't say enough about him. He called him: _____, _____, _____.

- These three descriptions parallel the things Paul wrote about the gospel in chapter one of Philippians:
 - My brother - fellowship in the gospel (**Philippians 1:5**).
 - My companion in labor - furtherance of the gospel (**Philippians 1:12**)
 - My fellow soldier - faith of the gospel (**Philippians 1:27**)

- Epaphroditus was a _____ Christian (*Philippians 2:27-28*). He was concerned about others (Paul and his own home church). He was concerned about their worry for him because of his illness.

B. He was a _____ Christian (*Philippians 2:28-30*). He was blessed because he was a blessing to so many others. He proves to us that the Joyful life is the life of _____ and _____. He also shows us that _____ really does work.

These reports of Timothy and Epaphroditus prove to us that the pattern and the power working together can produce JOY in the ordinary Christian's life.