

Phil 2:1-4

1 Therefore ~~if~~ (since) there is ~~any consolation~~ (encouragement) in Christ, ~~if-any~~ (since there is) comfort of love, ~~if-any~~ (since there is) fellowship of the Spirit, ~~if-any~~ (since there is) affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition (portrays a contentious struggle for personal profit or power, with no redeeming hint of service to others)

In other words, since you know the 4 building blocks,

- Encouragement,
- Comfort of love
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- And affection and mercy

Let your attitude and your goals be pure!

or conceit, (pride)

Herodias left her husband and married his brother. She resented John because he told her it was wrong for her to do that.

Salome (peace), Herodias' daughter danced before Herod and others. Herod enjoyed it so much he granted her a wish.

- he promised the daughter
- he'd give her whatever she wanted,
- up to half of the kingdom.

Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

Herodias thought she could get rid of

- the thought of John by having him killed.

Some in Philippi were causing strife by their attitudes or actions.

Last week I mentioned two threats to the church of Philippi.

- One was the false teachers,
- Paul called them dogs and evil workers.

Two:

- Eudoia and Syntyche were debating
- over something that is not mentioned.

Paul wanted the church to understand in order to experience true joy, they needed to put strife and pride behind them.

Pride is what got Satan kicked out of heaven.

Isa 14:13-14

13 For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.'

“Selfish” “kenodoxia” meaning “empty pride or a desire for praise.”

3 John 9

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. (he was wrapped up in himself)

Rom 12:3

not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly.

Phil 3b

but in lowliness (humility) of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

knowing God makes us humble, knowing ourselves keeps us humble.

- Everyone in here is better than you at something!
- That should keep us humble!

(1 Cor 10:24, 2 Cor 5:15, Rom 15:1, Job 31:17, 1 Cor 13:5)

Jesus said in Mark 9, If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

Being humble is moving your hands and your feet and doing something.

- When you begin to pour out,
- That's when you'll begin to take in.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

In chapter 1 Paul speaks of Christ first

- then in chapter 2 he speaks of others, not of numero uno.

3

As we read this next section of Philippians 2,

- we're going to see Jesus' example of humility.

Phil 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

He said to the disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,

If your outlook is greed, and sin and destruction,

- then that will be the outcome.

Someone once said that bad habits are like comfortable beds –

- easy to get into, but hard to get out of.

James 4:1-4

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Phil 2:5-6

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form (morpháy - this is used of a person that is always the same at the core) of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

The form of God, has nothing to do with God's shape or size.

It's often easier to say

- what God is not, rather than what He is.

Paul is saying that Jesus possessed the unchangeable nature of God.

Jesus says in Jn 14,

- He who has seen Me has seen the Father.

Jn 10 30 "I and My Father are one."

The Jews then wanted to stone Jesus, and He answered them,"

- Many good works I have shown you from My Father.
- For which of those works do you stone Me?"

they said, "For blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God" ([John 10:33](#))

Stoning was the penalty for blasphemy ([Leviticus 24:16](#)),

- the Jews plainly accused Jesus
- of claiming to be God.

They remembered what He said earlier in John 8,

- “before Abraham was born, “I AM.”

John 1:1-4,

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Later in the same chapter, John identifies Jesus as “the word:”

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Then there was doubting Thomas.

- In Jn 20 by he finally declared Him to be “my Lord and my God.”

Jesus didn’t correct Thomas,

- He received what he said.

Paul says of Jesus:

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Paul does not say that Jesus is the form of God,

- he says He is “in the form of God.”
- He’s speaking of Christ’s character and nature.

Even though He was in the form of God,

- He didn’t consider it robbery
- to be equal with God.

The word “harpagamós” for “robbery”

- It means to retain by force, to seize or to plunder.
- Jesus didn’t need to try to take possession of anything.

Jesus was willing to lay that equality aside.

7 but made Himself of no reputation,

This word “but” is a strong contrast of Christ’s refusal

- to be proud as God

5

- and His willingness to be humble as man.

Making Himself of no reputation “Himself He emptied”

Means to take something and pour it out.

All of that to save you and me,

- to keep us from eternal separation from Him.

Yet at the same time

- Jesus is still the Son of God.
- He couldn't become less of who He is.

Mal 3:6

6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Yes, Jesus was man on earth,

- but still possessed the essential characteristics of deity.

He still exercised some of His divine attributes on earth.

- He created food,
- he walked on water,
- and He forgave sins.
- Only God could do those things.

Even though He retained every single attribute of deity while on earth,

- He surrendered the independent exercise
- of those divine characteristics.

Today He is in heaven,

Col 1:27

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Jesus went from untouchable, to death on a cross.

John 17:5

5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus emptied Himself, He took the form of a bondservant,

This refers to a slave rather than a hired hand.

Exodus 21:1-6

As God, Jesus was sovereign, deserving to be served.

As Jesus on earth

- He willingly took on the role of a slave and to serve.

Isa 42:1

42 "Behold! My Servant (Jesus) whom I uphold,
My Elect One in whom My soul delights!
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

He didn't come expecting to be served,

- He came and served.

Serving will cost you something.

Being a Christian involves sacrifice.

1 John 3:17-18 (NLT)

17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? 18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Parable of a wedding feast, Luke 14:10.

He said,

- when you're invited sit in the lowest place,
- so that when he who invited comes to you and says,
- 'Friend, go up higher.'

Luke 14:12-14

12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Matt 23, whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Jesus took the form of a bondservant:

Phil 2:7c) and coming in the likeness of men.

This is the incarnation of Jesus, he became man.

Jn 1:14 - And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

7

- He appeared as men appear.
- He walked and talked, as ordinary men do.

- not everyone who saw Him
- knew He was the Son of God.

People treated Him as they would any other man.

Rom 8:3 He came in the likeness of sinful flesh

Remember, a sin nature is not an innate part of the human nature.

God created Adam perfect,

- then Adam disobeyed God.

Neither did Jesus have a sinful nature

- nor did He disobey God.

In John 8 Jesus told the crowd

- I am the light of the world.

He wanted them to know they could be free in Him.

- Some Jews began saying,
- they were Abraham's descendants,
- and had never been in bondage to anyone.

Jesus responded by telling them they are of their father the devil

- they only wanted to do the desires of their father.

John 8:46

46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

You see, Jesus was without sin!

Phil 2:8

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Paul says here, Jesus being found in appearance as a man and in 1 Tim 3:16 he says that Jesus appeared in a body.

- Jesus came in the flesh
- He didn't sin (1 Jn 3:5)
- He is God

Phil 2:8b

He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

In His earthly ministry He was known for loving the unlovable.

- He humbly served others

9 Therefore (verse 9) God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

Notice that God exalted Jesus, Jesus didn't need to exalt Himself.

Worlds list of the greatest people to live:

1. Gandhi
2. George Washington
3. Abraham Lincoln
4. Muhammad
5. Mao Zedong
6. Nelson Mandela
7. Julius Caesar
8. Fidel Castro
9. Winston Churchill

I didn't find any list with the name of Jesus on it.

- We're not on the list but we're in the Lamb's book of life.

Phil 2:9b) and given Him the name which is above every name,

Eph 1:22

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Rev 3:21

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

John 5:22

22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

The primary title Jesus used for Himself is "Son of Man."

Of the 80 times this title was used of Jesus,

- all but 3 come from Jesus Himself.

This in itself shows the **humility of Jesus** because **He** could have given Himself a more **exalted title**.

Instead, He identified Himself with lowly humanity.

Daniel spoke of one who is like “a Son of Man,”

- who comes to Him on clouds of glory
- and is given the authority to judge the world.

Dan 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.
14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed.

Jesus, “the Son of Man”

- represents nothing less than
- the authority of God.

And one day He will judge the world.

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Isaiah said something similar,

Isa 45:23

23 I have sworn by Myself;
The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness,
And shall not return,
That to Me every knee shall bow,
Every tongue shall take an oath.

When Paul said that every knee should bow,

- he didn't mean that some would be on one knee.
- No, every knee will bow.
- Even those who oppose Christ will bow.

“Every” knee means all, each one.

Matthew used the same Greek word.

Most will recall the story in Matt 8 of two demon-possessed men.

- Jesus cast the demons into a herd of swine.

Matt 8:32

32 And He said to them (the demons), "Go." So when they (the demons) had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine (meaning all of them) ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

A few verses earlier in the same chapter of Matthew the demons cried out,

“What have we to do with You, Jesus, You son of God?”

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Even the demons confess:

To confess is to acknowledge the truth:

Paul wrote when people were worshipping Caesar as Lord.

Many people today deny Jesus as Lord,

- but they will one day acknowledge Him as the Son of God.

No Greater Name Than Jesus!

We cannot *adorn* Him, for He is altogether lovely, the chiefest among ten thousand (Song of Solomon 5:10, 16).

We cannot *enrich* Him, for in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; He has riches in glory (Colossians 2:9; Philippians 4:19).

We cannot *engrace* Him, for He is full of grace and truth; of His fullness have all we received and grace for grace John 1:14, 16).

We cannot *instruct* Him, for He is omniscient and knoweth all things (John 16:30), with whom took He counsel, and instructed Him (Isaiah 40:14; Romans 11:3-4).

We cannot *improve* Him, for He is perfect in kingliness and kindness, in loftiness and loveliness, in greatness and goodness, in holiness and helpfulness.

We cannot *decorate* Him, for He is divinely desirable and also the desire of all nations (Hag 2:7). How great is His beauty (Zechariah 11:17), the beauty of holiness.

We cannot *ornament* Him, for He is the originator of all colorful design in all flowers of the field, fruits of the farm, and foliage of the forest; the Author of flaming sunsets and fascinating dawns. Himself, more glorious than His works.

We cannot *enlighten* Him, for He is the true light, which lighteth every man, the light of the world; and the light of life (John 1:9; 8:12). He is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:6). His understanding is infinite (Psalms 147:5).

We cannot *confine* Him, for the Heaven of heavens cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27). He is before all things, by Him all things consist (Colossians 1:17). He upholdeth all things (Hebrews 1:3).

We cannot *promote* Him, for He is preeminent in all (Colossians 1:18). Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named (Ephesians 1:21): King of kings, Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:16), Prince of princes (Daniel 8:25).

We cannot *ennoble* Him, for He is enthroned at the summit of sovereignty, and is glorious in majesty, at the very highest state of honor.

We cannot *embellish* Him, for He is excellent as the cedars (Song of Solomon 5:15). His countenance is as effulgent as the Sun (Revelation 1:16). He is the brightness of the Father's glory, radiant in everlasting light (Hebrews 1:3; Isaiah 60; 10:20).

We cannot *beautify* Him, for He is the Beloved Bridegroom and is like a jasper and sardonyx stone; He is to be seen seated upon a rainbow-circled throne, crowned with diadems (Revelation 4:3; 19:7).