



PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

The Mind of Christ

A verse-by-verse study outline
with note-taking bullets

45-MINUTE BIBLE STUDY

NEW ZION SAN MARCOS

Use the passage's order as the session roadmap

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

1 MIN

45-minute path from shared life to the lordship of Jesus.

- Welcome and aim: 2 minutes. Read the passage and trace its structure: 2 minutes.
- Verses 1–2, shared life and unity: 7 minutes. Verses 3–4, humility and concern for others: 7 minutes.
- Verse 5, Christ as pattern: 3 minutes. Verses 6–8, Christ humbled: 12 minutes.
- Verses 9–11, Christ exalted: 9 minutes. Synthesis and reflection: 3 minutes.

CROSS REFERENCES Philippians 1:27–30; 4:2–3

Read the whole passage before taking it apart

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

2 MIN

Listen for the change in focus from “you” to Christ and then to God.

- Paul begins with the church’s relationships and shared purpose.
- Verse 5 connects those instructions to the example of Jesus Christ.
- The passage descends through service, humility, and the cross.
- The final movement rises to Christ’s exaltation and universal lordship.

CROSS REFERENCES Read alongside Philippians 1:27–2:18

Verse 1 | Remember what believers share

PHILIPPIANS 2:1

4 MIN

Paul grounds his appeal in blessings the church already knows in Christ.

- Encouragement in Christ and comfort from love.
- Fellowship of the Spirit, compassion, and mercies.
- The repeated “if” language functions as an appeal to shared Christian experience.
- These gifts become the foundation for the unity Paul asks them to practice.

CROSS REFERENCES John 17:20–23; Romans 12:10–16

Verse 2 | Make the shared life visible

PHILIPPIANS 2:2

3 MIN

Paul asks for a united purpose shaped by love.

- “Be likeminded” and share the same love.
- Be “of one accord” and “of one mind.”
- Unity does not require identical personalities or gifts. It means a common direction under Christ.
- Paul’s joy is connected to the church living out this shared purpose.

CROSS REFERENCES Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:21

Verse 3 | Turn away from rivalry

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

4 MIN

Humility rejects self-promotion and gives others careful regard.

- “Strife” points to selfish ambition or rivalry.
- “Vainglory” is empty glory: seeking recognition for its own sake.
- “Lowliness of mind” calls believers to esteem others rather than compete for status.
- Humility does not mean denying the dignity or gifts God has given you.

CROSS REFERENCES Romans 12:3, 10; Mark 10:42–45

Verse 4 | Look to the good of others

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

3 MIN

Christian concern reaches beyond personal interests.

- Paul does not say to ignore your own responsibilities.
- He calls believers to notice and consider the interests of others as well.
- This concern becomes concrete through listening, sharing burdens, and seeking another's good.
- Ask: Whose needs might I be overlooking?

CROSS REFERENCES 1 Corinthians 10:24; Galatians 6:2

Verse 5 | Christ is the pattern

PHILIPPIANS 2:5

3 MIN

The church's mindset is shaped by the person and work of Jesus.

- “Let this mind be in you” bridges the instructions in verses 1–4 to Christ’s story.
- Paul points to Jesus rather than offering an abstract ideal of humility.
- The example is communal: the church learns how to live together by looking at Christ.
- The following verses show both Christ’s status and his willing self-humbling.

CROSS REFERENCES Romans 15:1–3; John 13:12–17; 1 Peter 2:21–23

Verse 6 | Christ did not exploit his status

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

4 MIN

Jesus' divine status does not lead him to grasp for advantage.

- Christ existed “in the form of God.”
- The KJV says he thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
- In context, equality with God is not used for self-serving advantage.
- The verse holds Christ's divine identity together with the humility that follows.

CROSS REFERENCES John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:15–17

Verse 7 | He took the form of a servant

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

4 MIN

Christ's “emptying” is described through his taking servant form and human likeness.

- The KJV says Jesus “made himself of no reputation.”
- He “took upon him the form of a servant.”
- He was made in the likeness of human beings and entered real human life.
- The emphasis is his self-giving and servant role, not a claim that he ceased to be divine.

CROSS REFERENCES John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 2:14–17

Verse 8 | He humbled himself to the cross

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

4 MIN

Jesus' humility takes the form of obedience, even in suffering and death.

- He was found in fashion as a man.
- He humbled himself and became obedient unto death.
- Paul names the cross specifically: this was a shameful and painful death.
- Christ's obedience shows the depth of his self-giving love.

CROSS REFERENCES Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Mark 14:36; Hebrews 5:8

Verse 9 | God highly exalted Jesus

PHILIPPIANS 2:9

3 MIN

“Wherefore” marks the turn from Christ’s humiliation to God’s exaltation.

- God highly exalted Jesus after his obedience unto death.
- God gave him “a name which is above every name.”
- The exaltation vindicates Jesus and declares his supreme authority.
- The passage’s center remains God’s action toward Jesus.

CROSS REFERENCES Acts 2:32–36; Ephesians 1:20–23

Verse 10 | Every knee will bow

PHILIPPIANS 2:10

3 MIN

The scope of Jesus' lordship includes all creation.

- Every knee bows “of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.”
- The three phrases express the universal reach of this confession.
- Paul echoes Isaiah’s language about every knee bowing to the Lord.
- The image points to worship and acknowledgment of Christ’s authority.

CROSS REFERENCES Isaiah 45:22–23; Revelation 5:11–14

Verse 11 | Every tongue confesses Jesus as Lord

PHILIPPIANS 2:11

3 MIN

The confession of Jesus' lordship gives glory to God the Father.

- Every tongue confesses “that Jesus Christ is Lord.”
- The title “Lord” expresses Jesus’ supreme authority and rightful worship.
- Christian confession joins belief, worship, and allegiance.
- The passage ends with glory to God the Father.

CROSS REFERENCES Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Revelation 5:13

Trace the movement from verse 1 to verse 11

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

3 MIN

Christ's story grounds the way the church lives.

- Shared life in Christ (verses 1–2) calls for unity.
- Humility and concern for others (verses 3–4) reflect Christ's mindset (verse 5).
- Christ serves and obeys unto death (verses 6–8).
- God exalts Jesus, and all creation confesses him as Lord (verses 9–11).

CROSS REFERENCES Reflection: What would change if our church treated influence as an opportunity to serve?