



UNITED

Behind One Cause

Philippians 2:1-4

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Review

- Last week, we read the first paragraph in a section that goes all the way to Philippians 2:16. Today, we look at the second paragraph.
- Paul is making a series of 'appeals' to the church at Philippi.
- Last Weeks Appeal: **"Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel."**
- This Weeks Appeal: **"Be united behind one cause."** (Be one, likeminded, unified.)

Message Section

1. _____ what God does for You. (vv. 1-2)

Philippians 2:1–2, NASB - ¹ Therefore [Paul now expands on the previous appeal in Phil. 1:27] if [a first-class conditional conj.: "Paul says, 'if' not as if he doubts whether the condition is really true, but simple to emphasize that when the condition is present, the conclusion should also be present." - Dr. W. Hendriksen (DTS)] there is any encouragement [GK: *paráklēsis*: ie., 'to come alone side' to 'encourage or comfort'] in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united [gives us our word, *symphony*] in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2, MSG - ¹ If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—² then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.

Paul was asking, rhetorically,

- Has God done anything for you?
- Have you experienced God's love?
- Have you enjoyed fellowship with God's Spirit in you?
- Have you received an outpouring of mercy and grace from God?

"What has God done for you?" – C. H. Spurgeon

2. _____ with what sin destroys in You. (v. 3a)

Philippians 2:3, NASB - ³ Do nothing [an imperative command] from selfishness [e.g., narcissism; used only here in the NT; Aristotle used it to describe "the self-seeking pursuit of someone to an office by unfair means"] or empty conceit [combines the two words "hollow" and "opinion"]....

3. _____ what God demands of You. (vv. 3b-4)

Philippians 2:3b–4, NASB - ³ ...but with humility [the operative word in this passage] of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3–4, MSG - ³ Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. ⁴ Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Life Application Section

- The choice is yours: Be humbled before God or be humbled by God.
- We must seek to 'live a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ.'
- We must realize, in humility, what God has done for us—not what we, in pride, feel we have done for God.
- We must deal—once and for all—with how our sin is destroying us.
- We (as a church) must become united behind one cause. (See B above)

Answers: 1. Define, 2. Deal, 3. Do.