

## United With Christ

### Philippians 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any **encouragement** from being united with Christ, if any **comfort from his love**, if any **common sharing in the Spirit**, if any **tenderness and compassion**, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- Paul is writing this letter from a Roman Prison in Philippi.
- He is writing to the believers there who are precious to Him.
- It was in Philippi that Paul and Silas were miraculously set free from prison in Acts 16
- The Church there has witnessed Paul's suffering for the Gospel and they like Paul are also suffering some persecution for the Gospel.
- Paul is writing to them for the purpose of encouraging unity and steadfastness of faith.

What he is saying to them is this: The thing that you need, comes from what you've received from Him...

### Vs. 1,2

Therefore if you have any encouragement **from being united** with Christ, if any **comfort from his love**, if any **common sharing in the Spirit**, if any **tenderness and compassion**, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by **being like-minded**...

The thing that you need, comes from what you've received from Him...

Maybe Christianity is less about what you can do for God and more about how well you receive from him?

Things that come from being United with Christ:

**Encouragement:** A Calling Near; especially for help.

**Comfort from his Love:** An address, for the purpose of persuading

**Common sharing in the Spirit:** Fellowship, Partnership, Joint participation

**Tenderness and Compassion:** Inward Affection and Mercy

### **Vs. 3,4**

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- Selfish Ambition is one of the very things the church and Paul were suffering from; from others who were causing them trouble.

### **Philippians 1**

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

### **James 3:16**

For where you have envy and **selfish ambition**, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**Ambition** with a pure motive is harmless and can be used for good.

**Selfish Ambition** has only one person's best interest in mind; Self. This is what James warns us leads to disorder and every evil practice.

*"Men do not quarrel when their ambitions have come to an end."*

Charles Spurgeon

...Rather, **in humility** value others above yourselves,

The ancient Greeks considered humility to be a fault, not a virtue. Their pagan and the secular idea of manhood was self-assertiveness and

imposing one's will on others; when anyone stooped to others he did so only under compulsion, hence his action were considered disgraceful.

Coming from a Greek pagan culture the Church in Philippi experienced a reversal in the meaning of the word from it being disgraceful to being esteemed in the Christian Church.

### **Vs. 5-11**

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6

Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7

rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

**Illustration:** Jesus washed the feet of the Disciples

### **John 13**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own** who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.**

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his **outer clothing (Identity/Nobility)**, and wrapped a towel (**Servanthood, Humility**) around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

## **Vs. 9-11**

9  
**Therefore God exalted** him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Matthew 23:12**

For those who **exalt** themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be **exalted**.

God not only exalt Jesus, but the Greek uses the expression of highly exalted or exalted to the highest place...

Christ's humility is our example

If we are United with Christ

If we have received any **encouragement** from being united with Christ...

If we have received any **comfort from his love**...

If any **common sharing in the Spirit**...

If any **tenderness and compassion**...

**Imagine with me what can happen when an Husband and Wife are both united in Christ**

- A Brother and a Sister
- A Father and Son
- A Mother and Daughter
- A Coworker in the work place
  
- A Community of Christians in Pueblo Colorado

