

The Mind of Christ: God's Work of Unity

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At this time, we'll go ahead and turn to Philippians chapter 2. Philippians chapter 2, start a new chapter from our series in the book of Philippians.

Last week, we walked through the powerful closing verses of Philippians chapter 1. We examine verse 27 for example where Paul challenged the church at Philippi with his specific word to recall that word conversation conversation. We learned that the Greek word used there actually refers to citizenship and that's to live as citizens. And we saw clearly that this was not a call to try harder or to earn your citizenship status.

And I'm going to bring a little bit more in this introduction than what I spoke about on this specific word for citizenship. And it's this is that you see it is not to be compared with applying for citizenship here on Earth. Want to make that very clear but rather it's the concept of colonization. I mentioned that I mentioned that citizens of Philippi were part of a Roman colony and in many ways that aspect just one thing about being in a colony is that you are if you are living we're living in Philippi one aspect of it is that it is a foreign power that established dominance what was once there before So, how does this connect with a spiritual application? You see, it wasn't the striving of the Philippians to become Romans, but simply to live out the reality of their citizenship.

As believers, we become citizens of heaven through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God who translated us, who rescued us as believers from the authority of darkness, Satan and sin, and relocated us into the kingdom of Christ. You see, Colossians 1:13-14 puts it this way. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness. There is the power of darkness. and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. Verse 14, here's the result of that translation. In whom we have redemption through the blood, even the forgiveness of sins. See, that's what it means, brothers and sisters, that believers, we are no longer under the authority of the law of darkness, but under the authority of Christ. We are secured in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. He redeemed us through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. And so, he's the one that secured our citizenship. His work. Amen.

And then we also looked at the phrase striving together. And we learned that this striving is God's people carried together by not our own power, but by God's power. By God's power. It is God who holds us as his people together. He's the one that brings the unity. He's the one that brought us out of the darkness into the kingdom of his dear son. And then we're together in Christ. We're going to see that. And then it is God who preserves the gospel among us. It's not

like we got saved and okay, the gospel is now behind me and what do I do now? Know the gospel carries through in your sanctification and you start to see the riches of the gospel more and more and the things of Christ becomes more and more important in your life than the things of your past becomes a central mark of your life. It is his authority, his power, his strength, his love that overflows us and no longer the things that overflow from this world.

And then I also mentioned that unity is not something we create. It is something God gives and it's done through the suffering for the furtherance of the gospel. Remember that no longer a barrier. It's a military term furtherance. God removed that barrier so that the gospel can advance by first us believe become believers of the Lord Jesus Christ and then ultimately that we're able to share in the same suffering of Christ. Remember that it wasn't just about filling joy, which is yes, that's one of the things of being a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. We no longer live in sin. We live according to Christ and his authority, but we also share in his suffering. We suffer for Christ. Why? When we are preaching the gospel, we're going to suffer for it. It's going to be unjust suffering. Absolutely. It's a different kind of suffering. We're not only suffering in sin, but we are suffering for the gospel sake. Ultimately for Christ. And that was verse 30. Remember that intimate kind of phrase that he said, you saw right, you saw the suffering in me and then you also heard about it in me, but now you are experiencing the same conflict as I am. Remember that's where we ended that intimate dialogue with the church of Philippi with Paul.

And then now we're going to go to chapter two. We're going to go into chapter two. And we're going to see here is that God is the one who establishes our citizenship. And is God who is the one that holds us together in unity. Then what does that look like then? What does that look like in our minds? We're going to see this in chapter 2. What how does it affect the way we think, right? We're our position is now secure in Christ. Now, how are we going to think about this position? How are we going to live out this position? And so God is the one that changes our thinking, right? We learned that we learned that in Romans 12:1. He transforms the way we think, renews our minds, and then is God that changes not only the way we renew our minds, but he wants us to match to our standing. Does that make sense? It's like we're positionally in Christ, and then he wants us our minds to match up with our position. And so that's part of sanctification. It's part of sanctification, our renewing of our mind, our mindset, becoming like Christ. But make no mistake, just as we cannot earn our citizenship in heaven, we cannot manufacture this mindset doesn't come from within. It is a spirit of God who forms Christ in us. It is Christ that forms in us. And so Philippians chapter 1 27 and 30 shows how the gospel shapes our life on earth. Remember that that was those verses. But here in Philippians 2 1-4 where we're going to be this morning as how the gospel shapes our life together. Amen. As a church body, how we are shaped by the gospel together.

So let us stand out of the respect of God's word as I read these verses of scripture. If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Amen. You may be seated. You may be seated.

We're going to see here in verse one is God provides the foundation to living together in the gospel. God is the one that produces the mind of Christ in his people. And it starts off with this, you might think a conditional statement if but in fact it's not a conditional statement. In fact, there's four ifs in this just one verse and they're actually certainties. They are certainties. When we read if, it's not a condition, it's not a doubt. Then in the original language in the context of God's sovereignty, these are rhetorical ifs. They're rhetorical if. Paul is literally saying, since these things are true, since these things are true, then he's going to go into the virtues. This is who you are. This is who you are. And this is what Paul does. He says, "If you can pull together some encouragement, here it is. This is it." So, we're going to just focus on the first one first. Consolation in Christ. In Christ. That word consolation, it literally means an act of comfort. And that comfort, that encouragement, it will find is found in Christ. He's the source. Nobody else. He is the authority when it comes to comfort. He is the authority when it comes to encouragement in our lives. We don't look anywhere else. So that's one part. And then we have in Christ the consolation that comfort act of comfort act of encouragement. And then in Christ that literally means is the person who provides that comfort. And then if you put both together, the act of comforting and who the comfort's coming from, we derive this same Greek word which means parakaleo. It literally means to call to one side. I love this expression to come to call to one side. Imagine someone coming right next to your side when you're suffering. When you need the most comfort, when you're discouraged, Christ comes to your side and he encourages you. Keep going. Don't give up. I'm with you. I'll never leave you nor forsake you. Right? That's what it means.

You know, often times we do that, don't we? When we see someone grieving, we don't even want to say anything, do we? We just want to be right next to that person. Just want to be right there. That's that closeness that Christ does for us all the time, brothers and sisters. All the time we're discouraged, he's there. You might not think it or aware of it, but he's there. He's always there. Never leave us nor forsake us in both encouragement and suffering. And is Paul's appeal for this kind of unity bringing us together in Christ, knowing that we are all sharing in suffering and we're all discouraged at times, but Christ is always available and we are all in it and understanding this. Talk about unity. Talk about unity. I know what you're going through, brother. I know what you're going through, sister. You don't need to explain. I know. I know. And he's there, isn't he? He's there and you don't have to explain your way because that experience that Christ gives us is the same kind of love and humility towards others. You see, Christ offers the same kind of encouragement, the same kind of comfort. Do you need to see how amazing that is? Right? Like us, we're so limited. We can only We're so limited in how we comfort and encourage each other in our flesh. I'm talking about it's not all encouragement. It's not all comfort, is it? You see, when Christ comes, he gives all his comfort. He gives all of his encouragement. And then when we share in that, you go, "Oh, man. This is the best thing in the whole world." Is it does is that how it comes out in your life? Because it ought to. He's there. He's there. Just recognize more of that. That's why Paul's appealing for this at the very beginning. It's in Christ. It's the foundation to our unity. It's in his encouragement and is in comfort in our lives. The encouragement doesn't come from our positive thinking. No, let's just get that out of your mind. It's not developed in the flesh. It exists in Christ. And you know what? And it's an inexhaustible well. An inexhaustible well, rivers of living water. Amen. He is a living water and the foundation of Christianity and fellowship is the comfort and strength believers receive from their relationship with Jesus Christ especially during times of suffering. And this is the consolation

that God does, God's work, not something we generate. No, no, no. It is Christ himself coming alongside us in help and counsel and in exhortation and it's found exclusively in Christ. Exclusively in Christ and then out of that the fellowship of the spirit this divine comfort comforter provides hope and strength in weary times.

And this is Christ ultimately ministering to his people. The great shepherd. And here I am, the undershepherd. And I'm here to show you this is possible. It's available. This comfort from Christ. Now, transitioning now to the next part of this is the comfort of love. The comfort of love. This is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. I mentioned this Romans 5:5, right? It says there and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost which is given unto us. One commentator says this that this portrays the Lord and he does it in a gentle way. You ever notice how the Lord works? He doesn't condemn you. He comes remember like that flax he doesn't he doesn't want to break it or that reed. Sorry. He doesn't want to break it or that smoldering wick. He doesn't want to just blow it. He comes in a gentle way. And this is how we recognize this is Christ in his comfort. And he cheers us up when we're downcast. He comforts us. He encourages us. He gives us the strength that we need to persevere and into the believer's ear. That's why we can be with brothers and sisters in Christ and not say anything as I mentioned because Christ is ultimately the one that's comforting us and we're just re-emphasizing that. We're just emphasizing that. Do you see it? Do you see it, brother? Do you see it, sister? Do you understand what I'm going through? And that generation of that love we get to be recipients of. He wants to come to us all the time. Think about that. How long has it been? And some of you maybe here in this room where you've been just suffering and you feel like you're alone. Even though Christ is there, he's there to help. He's here to counsel. He's there to exhort. How much of are you experiencing just alone? Cuz I'll tell you something, it's going to crush you. And what happens when you feel discouraged or when you feel like you're not comforted? The burdens just come on, don't they? And what did Jesus say? My yoke is easy. My burden is light. He always promises what we need. We just got to remember what he has said to us. Amen.

And so we receive it him and we love because he first loved us. And then third, fellowship of the spirit. We saw last week that unity is produced by the spirit of God. We saw that in verse 27. It's not some kind of thing that we do as the world does, which is we network together amongst a common purpose. That's not it's not a common purpose for our good. It's not it's not ultimately that. It's what's best for us. God has something best for us and that is to be in fellowship with him. Not amongst people primarily which is good. But who are we communicating? Is it the fellowship of the spirit primarily? This is what Paul is appealing to us. Look, as good as it is to spend time together, you need to spend time in the fellowship of the spirit. You have to and this comes at your personal devotion time and then you have something to come with with your brothers and sisters when you show up. And I'm not saying that I'm not diminishing people that are weak and going through suffering. No. But I'm saying, how about if more of us are there to encourage the weak? See, that's the part that Paul is appealing to in the fellowship of the spirit or in the spirit. And then we see this is the spirit uniting us in one life. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says this, "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one spirit." Now, I don't have time to go into all of this text and unpack it, but I just want to dial into one part. It is that the Holy Spirit who puts us into the body of believers, the body and who gives us a gift to each particular

member and then we are to function in the local body in this context, Calvary Road Baptist Church. The spirit has given us a gift to use with each other. And praise God, you're all doing that. And can we do it better? Amen. Wherever you are, you can always serve better with the gift that the Holy Spirit has given to us. And you know, you might be someone that's unseen, right? Picture the whole body. You got the big toe, right? You might be the big toe. Not saying I put you there. I remember this part. I think it was Dr. McGee. He shared when they were moving the tabernacle and he said the person that was putting the nails to hold and secure the tabernacle. Do you think that person was talked about? No. But was his work not seen? No. It was there. It's written in scripture. Why? Because his part was important. His part was important. Nothing is insignificant to God ultimately. So let us not compare ourselves and where God has gifted us in but every part is important. We each have a gift and we are each to function with that gift.

Fourth, God gives bowels and mercies in verse one. You see that this brothers and sisters is it means the most deepest amount of affection that you can give the deepest amount of compassion you can give to one another. Paul's using really important very strong language here. Bowels and mercies you see. And it's God's own heart. This is how strong it is. It's God's own heart reproduced in his people. Let me say it again. This word bowels and mercies is God's own heart reproduced in his people. The heart of God. Okay? There's no other kind of better affection, no greater love than that. And he puts it in his people. And he mentioned this in verse eight. You see that the bowels of Jesus Christ he mentioned before? It is suggesting that it is like it's like a gut-wrenching feeling. Had anybody ever felt that? It's like you feel just this gut-wrenching feeling like I don't know what why this is happening in my body and it's not something that's just happening physically. It is something that's actually happening spiritually first and then on top of that it is this visceral deep inward love again that's God's love reproduced in us but it is it's not just a feeling that God is trying to produce in us. Oh, you feel so deep in love or you feel so gut-wrenching. No, that's not ultimately God's heart. Let me go further. But that is the deep visceral effect that it has upon us. What it does rather it's beyond the superficial sympathy that God wants to put in our hearts again his own heart. And then what does this do? It leads to action. This is what Paul is doing. He's saying he's saying, "Look, you've got these feelings. It's not just for you. It's because you are thinking of God wants you to think about someone and you are to share that not the feelings that you have but something God is working in your heart to do something about what he wants to do and he's using you for it. You remember I talked about that in the last sermon that we're not just suffering for no reason. He's bringing us together brothers and sisters. So whatever you're experiencing that there's something going on, and you don't know what it is. Ask for more clarity. Maybe that's the next step that you need to do that you need to ask God for more clarity. Why am I experiencing this? There must be a reason because there always is with God. He didn't just leave you with emotions. No. What did what did what did God's love do? He gave his own begotten son. Okay, that's the deepest amount of love that only God can give. And he gives this kind of love. Not of course equal to that but the same heart that leads to sacrifice. Not for my own pleasure. Not from what am I going to get out of this. You don't that's not what God's heart is. Is it I just I have a concern for you brother. I have a concern for you sister. I just want to be here. You know I have time. I have all these things I got to do. But somehow you came into my mind and you're the most important person right now I need to spend time with. God is putting me in your life. and you take that next step and then God shows you the answer. But you got to take that step, don't you? You got to actually meet with that person and then when you do, God will give you more clarification. That's how God works. He doesn't just dump all

these things on you because you know you're going to hesitate, don't you? He gives you enough strength to move to the next step, to the next step, to the next step. That's how God works. He is a light unto my feet, a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. You know what a lamp is? It's not enough light to go all around. It's like a flash. It's not like a flashlight. It's just enough for one step, another step, and another. This is how God works. You're not advanced enough that you know everything. You'll never be that way. It's in fact just taking one step at a time. And you do it consistently. That's what maturity is. You do it consistently. You do it what the word is faithfulness. Faithfulness. That's what God wants in us. He is faithful, so we are faithful.

Next, if you view this verse as a checklist for us to perform, we will fail. Let me repeat that again. We will fail. If we think of this as some kind of performance, we will run dry. Always remember that. You want to know if you're dry, it's because you're just doing it as a checklist. I just got to do this. I just got to do. No, don't ever treat what I'm talking about like that. This is serious. This is life possibly or death for somebody. I've known so many people where they're on the brink of suicide and then the person came alongside him. Don't do it. Don't do it. Got rescued. I know a person literally like that. I can just it comes to my mind and I have more but I don't have time to just share my stories but this is this is like serious stuff. This is serious stuff.

But if you view this as an inventory rather of what God has already provided, here it is already provided. It changes everything. You get that? He already supplied everything. Remember that passage? He already supplied everything we need. We just need to act by faith and not by sight. God provides the consolation. God pours out the comfort. God establishes the fellowship. God's own heart is reproduced in his people. And therefore, the unity Paul is about to describe is not achieved by human striving, but by God's grace shaping us. This is a call to yield to what God is already doing. Are we the stumbling block? Are we preventing what God wants to do through us or are we allowing the Holy Spirit just as we were yielded to him the first time? That yielding is still the very the same thing, isn't it? Fellowship in the spirit, hear from him because it's the spirit of God that connects us to Christ and Christ the father. One theologian puts it this way. What it means to fellowship in the spirit is God's spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ all in united in you. The trinity all involved in all of this. You see the trinity is a perfect unity. Do you realize that? The father, the son, the holy spirit. There's no kind of unity found anywhere else except in the Trinity. And that kind of fellowship is brought to your soul and you are to now be a channel of that. It's amazing, isn't it? If you look into it, it's profound. And we just in verse one, let's go to verse two. Verse two, God forms unity in his people, but more than that, God fulfills the joy, the joy of unity. He says, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." You see, being like-minded is a supernatural work of God. Paul asks that to be like-minded is not in our flesh. This is impossible with the flesh. We all have different backgrounds. Think about it in this room. How many backgrounds do we have in this room? How many preferences might you have? How many in this room have your own opinions and we've come in with that angle? It will cause disunity like that if we just focus on those things. Right? So, in regards to the Philippian church, there was a degree of division. And we're going to see that in chapter 4 and it was threatening them. And Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says, "I want you to detect this now before it's too late."

And so, how do we fix the division? Then the question you may ask, man's way is compromise. Man's ways is debating, endless debating, not returning any fruit or good results or rather another

one is forced agreement. Forced agreement. It's like communism, isn't it? But God's way. But God's way. He gives us the mind of Christ. We need a whole new mindset. We need the mind of Christ because we can't do it in ourselves. See, God aligns our minds toward Christ, not away from him. Towards Christ. To be like-minded means God tunes our hearts to the same tune as his heart. I mentioned that previously, but this is just another way to emphasize the point. What is God's heart? And then what is he tuning me into? And what is that tune? Is to be having the mind of Christ. And what does that mean? You see Jesus didn't come here, think about this, to fix all small little things. If you looked at the gospels, he's not fixing all these little things. I mean, compared to what he did on the cross, politics was like secondary. Render to Caesar what is Caesar's. Render to God what is God's. Very simple statement, isn't it? He did. He treat He understood priority. What are you prioritizing? See, when you have the mind of Christ, you prioritize the things of God all the time. All the time anytime you go beyond that, it's not the mind of Christ. What does he say? Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. That's a priority. It means God is first in all the things that you're doing in life. Every day priority is God. Next day priority is God. The next day priority is God. You don't just categorize God somewhere in your priorities. That's what it means. He is comes first, always, every day, all the time.

So God aligns us to that kind of affections towards the same savior, his words, not mine. And I mentioned that the spirit inspires the highest amount of courage and helps us all who partake of his influence to stand fast. So what all that means is courage in a biblical sense is taking God's word and standing on it. You're not budging. What did Luther say? Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. Right? I can't do anything other. Peter said, "You have the words of life. Where are we going to go?" Same expression. You're the words of life. I need you, Lord. I can't go any other way. That's the idea. God is the one who harmonizes the church this way. And it's Christ that's being exalted instead of us. You see a lot of times we say we say a lot of things but is our lives actually matched up to that is really Christ being exalted in our life or is it self because there's only two types of worship. It's either Christ or idols.

And then next we go into the same love and one accord in this verse having the same love. Whose love? It must be God's love. Amen. Human love is partial and preferential. Always always remember that it's partial and preferential. God's love on the other hand is full and sacrificial. Full and sacrificial. When God works in a congregation, he displaces our selfish affections with his divine affections. God pours his love into us. Remember Romans 5:5. We don't manufacture this. In fact, if we try to manufacture, it creates disunity at the end of the day. And so he uses this other expression, being of one accord. Being of one accord literally means that he knits our hearts together. That's what it literally means. He knits our hearts together for one purpose. Like you want to try to tear that's unity does, right? He instead the expression and then he says of one mind. And what does this mean? It means that God gives shared purpose, his purpose, God's purpose. It's not about what one person is doing in any given situation. It's how does your whatever you're doing tie into the whole church. Does that make sense? We don't just doing ministry on our own. It's you're always thinking how does this tie in to this local church, to this local body.

And brothers, that's what I'm thinking about. And sisters, when I'm putting together all these things, I'm taking time. The reason why I'm taking time is I want to make sure that this fits all

into we're doing as a local body. We're not just in silos, but we are all coming together and we're making Christ exalted in everything that we do. And so this is what is shared amongst us. I like what one commentary puts it. He said the unity Paul describes as deeper than unanimity of opinion. It is unity of soul. He ties our souls together. It's literally like marriage, isn't it? You are you are together with one person. Death or life, right? That's how serious this is. It's not your opinion or my opinion. Many people leave churches because it's about opinion. Oh, this thing wasn't like the way I wanted or this thing was I didn't prefer this. Is that really where we are in church history where church has become consumeristic? It's about us, not about Christ. We have to always test where we are, brothers and sisters, because that's what ultimately produces the spirit of God. It's him. It's him. He is increasing, I hope, in this pulpit and I am decreasing. I hope as you're listening, Christ is being exalted in you and you are being decreased.

The next verse is verse three. Verse three, God removes pride to real humility. In this verse, let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. I want to focus on strife here in the text and also vainglory. Strife and vainglory cannot be merely fixed by fixing a habit. Let me repeat that. It cannot be a habit change. This is not something that you can do again. You cannot manufacture by just changing a bad habit for a new habit. That's not what this is talking about. This is not what Paul is saying. He's rather expressing that these come as an expression of our flesh and it cannot be fixed by changing mere habits. It is a much deeper problem. It's a sin problem. Vainglory and strife is a sin problem. So the natural setting of the human heart is what? Vainglory. That's what he's saying. Your default is vainglory. And what is vainglory? Empty glory. Self-promotion. So anytime you sense self-promotion, self that's of sin. Right? That's a sin. Call it the way it is, not what the world says. Oh, no. It's your life. Do what's best for you. But what did I say? We're all part of this local body. How does my life affect the whole unity of the believers in this local body? And so Paul warns against doing things through strife. And last week I mentioned that true spiritual striving is not conflict with each other. We're not in this to perform. We're not in this to out compete each other. It's we're all doing this together. Paul use expressions like locking arms side to side and we're in this together. We're going together same way, same purpose of God. How do we stop being selfish then? You might ask. Well, we cannot simply decide to be humble. That doesn't work that way. See, humility is not a habit we build up. It's not something that we build up. And by the way, it's not something that you can just I can just stop being proud and then now I can be humble. That doesn't work either. It is a fruit of the spirit that is produced in you. It must come from outside into you. And then that fruit bears upon you when the spirit is working in your life.

And you cannot ever own it up to, oh, I did it. But it was the spirit of God that produced this fruit, the spirit of joy or the spirit of love or the spirit of self-control. Right? Can go on and on. You see, God must surgically remove our pride. And Ezekiel 36:26 puts it this way. He takes away the stony heart. And he did that once and for all. But he continues to work in our lives, making us more holy, more holy, more holy in the image of Christ. And he does this by showing us this is how he does it. Not only by the fruit of the spirit, but he makes the glory of Christ more important in your life. He makes the glory of Christ more important. And this is a true change. You just you notice in your life like gosh is all this stuff about me God just takes that away. Takes that away. Takes that away and puts the glory of Christ instead in everything that you're doing. So you see when you make God big, what happens? You naturally see how small we are.

That's where we need to always be. Amen. God needs to be magnified and we need to be set aside. I love what John the Baptist said in John 3:30. He must increase, but I must decrease.

See, God silences our strife by giving us his peace. Strife comes from self, but God crucified self with Christ. Galatians 2:20, I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh. I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. It's our that's our life theme, isn't it? God removes the power of vainglory and reveals his glory. Vainglory is empty glory as I mentioned. Glory that evaporates into thin air. It's like the mist. It comes and goes just as quickly as it comes. It goes. But not the glory of Christ. It's everlasting. Christ alone is the full meaning of this. In Jeremiah 9:23-24 says this, "Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might. Let not the rich man glory in his riches, but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord, which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Amen. God produces this in one's life.

You see, humility back in the time of Paul was non-existent. Actually, it was unknown in the Greek culture. You know who brought humility? The understanding of it, it was Christ himself. It was in Christ revealed humility that they finally had a connection to this word humility. That's why you cannot generate this in yourself. It is in someone and it's not me. It's not you. It's Christ. That's where humility is. It's in him. And humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is seeing yourself truthfully before God. And only God can give you this kind of sight. The text says, "Let each esteem other better than themselves." This goes against every instinct of self-preservation, by the way. It is supernatural. Requires God to change our eyes. And this is the change that happens. You see, before you would pretend to think you are better than others while secretly judging them. Is that right? You give a face a false smile, but deep down you just you're judging. You're judging. You're judging. But what God does when he changes our hearts after his own heart, God gives a new heart that genuinely values the grace in someone's life. The grace that is in someone's life. He opens your eyes to the grace of God. You know, grace is being available all of the time. And we quickly go, "Oh, you're not perfect." Or "You know what? You're doing this wrong." or my opinion, your opinion, preference, right? All this stuff that's man, but God opens their eyes to see the grace of God and everyone's like, God is doing something in someone's life here or elsewhere. And when you see that, that's God working in your life. And then what happens is when you generally see the grace of God in people's lives in you, you see the grace of God in your life. It's all about grace. It's all about grace. And when God opens our eyes to our own weakness of comparison, that is a weakness, isn't it? It is a weakness. Remember what Paul said? Take this out, God. I don't want to be compared. I want to be better. And Jesus said, "In my what? In your weakness, my strength is perfected."

And so this is God's work in the heart. We stop comparing. We start seeing God working. And then Philippians 2:13 says this very clearly, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. He is the one who moves the will to esteem others.

Lastly, verse four. Verse four. God expands our vision. God expands our vision. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. This is not a command by the way of self-neglect that you neglect yourself. That is not the emphasis here. Rather is a call to

spirit produce self-forgetfulness. Remember about comparing. He's going to emphasize this here now. You forget about yourself and you start thinking about what God is doing. And so the cure for this tunnel vision of thinking of comparison, this sin that so easily besets us. You see what sin does? It curves an inward look at yourself. And we become obsessed with our own things, our rights, our reputation, our comfort, and all sorts of things. Paul says, "Look not on your own things." His own things. The Greek verb here for look implies waiting with great expectation. Meaning, oh, what is God doing here? What is God doing there? Instead of focusing on yourself, you forget. You forget. You forget. It's all dependent on God's grace. Right? How are you, how are we breathing in this room if it wasn't for the grace of God? Remember I gave you the illustration Sunday evening like how the earth was created and God designed it. He's the one that made this all happen. He's the one that made all this happen. He created everything and we're just supposed to observe and worship him. And so with great expectation, not just a small expectation, great. Oh God, I want to see more of you. I want to see more of your grace in other people's life and as well as in my life. Let this not be about me anymore and let that be consistent.

And God shifts our expectation. God lifts our chins as it were. He turns our eyes from inward to outward. And then we see through God's lens as it were, his perspective. And we look at the things of others. There's the change. You start seeing the things of others. And then we see them as God sees them. Lord, help me to see the way you see the situation. Is that your prayer? You see, we don't do this through moral resolve. We don't do this through religious discipline. Just keep building our habit. No, it happens because God by his spirit forms us in Christ. Amen. So God gives us the mind of Christ. Christ came what? For others. Christ served others. Christ suffered for others. It was always about others if you look through the scriptures.

So in conclusion, we began by remembering that our citizenship is in heaven. A status granted entirely by the finished work of Christ. We saw that our unity is not result generated by man, but of God holding us together in his power. And then now in Philippians all the way through verse four, we see that the mindset of this citizenship which is of humility in Christ, unity by the spirit and love from God is also a work of God. And we often leave a sermon thinking, I need to go out there now and be more humble or oh, I need to just do what the checklist. I want to before we go, remember the lesson Paul is saying here. This is not a call to try harder. Instead, our prayer should be a prayer. Lord, I cannot kill this pride in me. I cannot generate this kind of love. I cannot create this unity of believers, but you can. But you can. So may it be. Amen.

Let us rest in that truth. It is God which worketh in you. Let's let God's grace shape your life into reflecting Christ. And here is where I want to end. God gives us the mind of Christ. God gives us the love of Christ. God gives the humility of Christ. God gives the compassion of Christ. God gives the unity of Christ. Everything God requires, God supplies.

Let's pray. Father, we take in as it were a well, a spring of water. You supply everything to nourish our soul primarily so that we may be filled up so that we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me and my brothers and sisters. God, it is a reservoir, God, that we need to constantly be reminded that is available to us. It's all found in Christ. Foundation is in Christ and continues to be in Christ and forever more will be in Christ. Father, we thank you for all of these things that you bring out through your text, through your word. Remind us of this as we leave,

Lord, that with you all things are possible. Help us to believe, Lord. Help us, Lord. And I pray for those that are not a believer, that doesn't recognize any of this at all in their lives, that they're doing it through their own flesh. They're trying to be moral. They're trying to be more disciplined. They're trying to do things to create unity in themselves and they're failing. Help them, Father. Awaken them to see that it must be first salvation in Christ. They need to be saved from their own sin, from themselves, from looking inwardly for the answer, and to look upward and onward to Christ. And it was already done in the past, finished on the cross, full payment for their sin. As he said, it is finished. May those words be clear. May it resonate this morning with those that are unbelievers, Lord, because you are ultimately the one that are calling the lost sheep, Lord. And we know every lost sheep will be found. He is the one that seeks after the one of the 99. May that be so this morning. And we'll thank you in Jesus name. Amen.