

APPRENTICES - START WITH HIS OWN SERVICES - NO HUMILITY

SELF FIRST
HAVE HUMILITY AS WE LEARN HUMILITY

THE UPWARD CALL (PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4)

1So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

AM (AT ALL)...

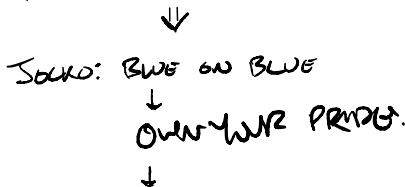
ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHRIST
COMFORT FROM LOVE (AGAPE)
PARTICIPATION IN THE SPIRIT
AFFECTION + SYMPATHY (PITY) } THEN...

SAME THINKING
SAME LOVE (GIVE/RECEIVE)
UNIFIED - "WITH UNITED SOULS"

AM TEAM - NO MATTER YOUR ABILITY/LEARN, WE ARE PULLING IN SAME DIRECTION

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- NOTHING IN PRIDE, ONLY IN HUMILITY
- ABSOLUTE IS INTENTIONAL
- SOBER w/OUR FAULTS, GRACIOUS w/OTHERS
- NOT MORBID INTROSPECTION, OWNERSHIP



Matthew Henry - There is no greater enemy to Christian love than pride and passion. If we do things in contradiction to our brethren, this is doing them through strife; if we do them through ostentation of ourselves, this is doing them through vain-glory: both are destructive of Christian love and kindle unchristian hearts. Christ came to slay all enmities; therefore let there not be among Christians a spirit of opposition. Christ came to humble us, and therefore let there not be among us a spirit of pride.

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

- NOT JUST YOURS, OTHERS
- PHILIPPI - NOT JUST HOMOGENEOUS PEOPLE
- COSMO. ARBA, GREAT DIVERSITY
- EXPECTATION OF XAU LIFE:
YOU WILL BE AROUND OTHERS.
THESE OTHERS WILL HAVE INTERESTS THAT AREN'T EXACTLY DIFFERENT THAN YOURS, BUT WILL COST YOU TO MEET.

SAME MIND w/USK!

YOU HAVE INTERESTS + NEEDS
BUT TRUE CHRISTIANS MEET THE TRUE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST (PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11)

5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

• EXAMPLE DEFINED

6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

• HMMW
EMPTIED HIMSELF - GOD TO MAN

GRASPED - "HOLD TIGHTLY"

EMPTIED - "RENDER VOID"

- FORFEIT DIVINE PRIVILEGES

8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HUMBLED HIMSELF - MAN TO DEATH

CROSS - CRIMINALS DEATH!

Matthew Henry - Christians must be of Christ's mind. We must bear a resemblance to his life, if we would have the benefit of his death.

9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

EXALTED + HONORED BY GOD

- ALL WILL BOW
- THE PATH MAY LOOK DIFFERENT FOR US BUT DIRECTION SAME | POTTER 5
- WORTH? NO. NOT A CALL TO IMPASSIVE PASSIVE VAIN!
YOU CAN TRADE THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE WORLD.
HOWEVER, YOU FORFEIT HIS POWER IF YOU DO.

Henri Nouwen - Indeed, to live a spiritual life means to become living Christs. It is not enough to try to imitate Christ as much as possible, it is not enough to remind others of Jesus; it is not even enough to be inspired by the words and actions of Jesus - Christ. No, the spiritual life presents us with a far more radical demand: to be living Christs here and now, in time and history.

JUST HOW FAR DOWN DID HE GO?

THE WORKING OUT (PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13) - HUMILITY MELISSARA

12Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence...

WHO ARE YOU WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?

Actually formed on and encouraged

12work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...

- NLT - "WORK HARD TO SHOW RESULTS OF SALVATION, OBEY GOD WITH REVERENCE AND FEAR."
YOUR OWN - "I'M NOT THERE TO HELP YOU."

Henri Nouwen - Regardless of the particular shape we give to our lives, Jesus' call to discipleship is primal, all-encompassing, all-inclusive, demanding a total commitment. One cannot be a little bit for Christ, give him some attention, or make him one of many concerns. Is it possible to follow Christ while fulfilling the demands of the world, to listen to Christ while paying equal attention to others, to carry Christ's cross while carrying many other burdens as well? Jesus certainly appears to draw a very sharp distinction. "No one can be the slave of two masters" (Matthew 6: 24), he insisted, and he did not hesitate to confront us with the uncompromising demands of his call: "It is a narrow gate and hard road that leads to life... Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 7:14, 10:37). These challenging words are not meant only for a few of Jesus' followers who have a so-called "special vocation." Rather, they are for all who consider themselves Christians. They indicate the radical nature of the call. There is no easy way to follow Christ. As he himself says, "Whoever is not for me is against me" (Matthew 12:30).

FEAR - THIS SHOULD GIVE US GREAT PAUSE

13for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOD IS WORKING IN US
PROVIDES DESIRE - WILL
PROVIDES POWER - WORK
TO DO HIS WILL!
IF THIS FEELS IMPOSSIBLE,
TIME TO GET IN TOUCH!

Matthew Henry - It should encourage us to do our utmost, because our labor shall not be in vain. God is ready to concur with his grace, and assist our faithful endeavors.

DON'T DO THIS ON YOUR OWN,
BUT DON'T TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF THE WHEELS.

• At some point, you must stop. Keeping love Ren. Save others.