

We Are The Church

Pt. 13 - "Healthy Churches Look to the Interest of Others"

Philippians 2 | January 18th, 2026

A Working Definition of the Church

"A group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom, to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances. To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King, to display God's own holiness & love through a unified and diverse people; as they follow the teaching and example of the pastors/elders & overseers.

~ Ever heard "*I've got a new lease on life?*" Something happens that radically changes our perspective on life. It affects our outlook on everything. Here in Phil. 2:1-11; Paul is doing the same thing!

~ The Christian life is full of opposites! An example - Worldly advice promotes self, while Christian standards promote the good of others. BUT, if we're going to be a people (church) who honor Christ by following His command for unity, then we must look to the interest of others.

> The Bible teaches that individual humility can produce a "body" of humility. Pride & humility stand in stark contrast to each other;
** Humility leads to meekness, modesty, lowliness, submission, compliance, a natural deference towards what best serves the group instead of what best serves me. The opposite leads to arrogance, hastiness, pride, high ego's, loftiness, inappropriate attitudes, etc.

I. Superior _____
(Phil. 2:1-2)

~ There is no artificial motivation here! Note that the "*if*" in verse one is not conditional. The "*if*" is better understood as since.

~ Paul is not asking if you feel it! He knows there is encouragement in Christ; because he experienced all of that personally!

> Note the significance of a small word: _____. All of this experiences & emotions are coming from something. They are found *in* Christ!

> 2 Corinthians 1:4 = comfort + Phil. 2:1 = comfort

II. Heavenly _____
(Phil. 2:3-8)

> While pursuing humility may seem difficult, there are at least two reasons why I think it is worthwhile and possible for us.

1. This concept is not completely foreign to us.
~ Jesus had it...we have been given it. cf. Romans 8:17; "co-heirs" with Christ

2. We have been given a renewed mind = cf. Romans 12:2; transformed by the "renewal" of your minds

III. Maximum _____
(Phil. 2:9-11)

... He experienced the utmost level of humility that would bring him to the point of death. This death has meaning, and significance, and power. He died on a sinner's cross. He died on your cross.

> Why was Jesus & why will Jesus be highly exalted over all things in this created universe?

- a) He was perfectly obedient
- b) He suffered
- c) He _____
- d) He did it all in _____

> To live in true humility, you must find your _____ in the interest of others.