Small Groups

Fall Semester *2026*

CROSSROADS CHURCH
STATEN ISLAND



About Session 4:

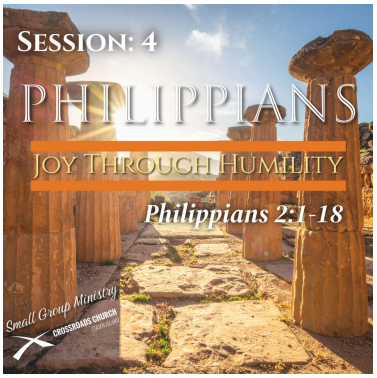
Please Read: →

Chapter 2 begins by encouraging us to reflect on and adopt Paul's perspective regarding trials, especially in relation to spiritual unity within the church. Unfortunately, there were some detractors who sought to intentionally defame Paul's name, even while he was imprisoned. Nevertheless, Paul maintained a focus that transcended his circumstances, and we can do the same.

Memory verse:
"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.."
(Philippians 2:3)

The key to achieving a mindset of harmony is humility, which is a major theme in this chapter and throughout the book of Philippians. The foundation for this cooperative mindset is rooted in the unparalleled life of Jesus Christ. Paul included this message for the church, particularly for some members who were in conflict, emphasizing the need to align with Scripture. However, God's purpose in preserving this account extends beyond the church of Philippi. Our heavenly Father wants every believer to understand the significance of humility, as it is essential to their spiritual growth. Without humility, spiritual maturity becomes elusive, integrity may falter, and the opportunity to serve the Lord will diminish.

With humility, we will follow God's counsel in Philippians to avoid useless arguments, unnecessary complaining, and the drama of disunity, all of which do not align with our profession of faith.



Before You Watch:

Dicuss this statement: **Since we have received encouragement, comfort, and fellowship in Christ, we set aside our selfish ambitions, embrace humility, which is like Jesus, and practice our faith without grumbling—shining as bright lights in a dark world.**

Brief Overview | Philippians 2:1-18

Paul issues a heartfelt call for unity to the Philippian Church, rooted in one of the most profound theological descriptions of Jesus' humility found in the entire Bible. This passage is not meant merely for informational purposes; instead, it should lead to a noticeable transformation in how we act toward others. Similarly, we must be careful not to slip into legalism, where we emphasize personal preferences over God's purposes.

Watch Video

1. Focus on acting right over being right — v. 1-4

*"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

2. Focus on the example of Christ— v. 5–11

*"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

3. Focus on my reverence for God and my responsibility for growth — v. 12-14

*"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing…"*

4. Focus on contribution instead of complaining — v. 15-18

*"…that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me."*

Discussion Questions:

Question 1 (On Humility & Unity): Jesus chose to "empty Himself" of His rights and privileges to serve us (v. 7). What is one specific "right," preference, or comfort you might need to lay down this week to better serve or bring unity to your family, workplace, or church community?

Question 2 (On Witness & Attitude): Paul says that doing things without grumbling or disputing is exactly what makes us "shine like stars" in a dark world (v. 14-15). Why do you think our daily attitude and tongue have such a massive impact on our Christian witness to outsiders?

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