

Philippians 2026 – Week 3 – Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians 2:1-11: *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, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 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.*

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!*

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.*

INTRO to Philippians: The letter of Philippians is the perfect starting place for biblical teaching on following Christ as a disciple. This letter speaks to obedience and faithfulness in the life of the individual believer, and the importance of being healthy and unified in the Church. Philippians presents God's instructions in a warm and encouraging tone, as believers are challenged to conduct ourselves at all times and in all places "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

INTRO to Philippians 2:1-11: This section of Philippians blends together beautifully the theological, doctrinal, and practical. Following Christ's example, we can see the evidence of living in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ in our human relationships. The key to these relationships is setting aside our own desires in surrender to God's will and for the good of others (see **Luke 9:23-25** below).

I. A right relationship with God leads to right relationships with others. (vs. 1-4)

A. Four Spiritual Blessings of our relationship with God through Christ

1. *SINCE you have encouragement from being united with Christ*
2. *SINCE you have comfort from his love*
3. *SINCE you have common sharing in the Spirit*
4. *SINCE you have tenderness and compassion*

B. Four responses seen in our relationships with one another

1. *being like-minded*
2. *having the same love*
3. *being one in spirit*
4. *and of one mind*

C. The opposite of *being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind* is described in **vs. 3a**:

- a. *selfish ambition* – seeking only to advance yourself or your own cause, even if you have to tear others down in the process
- b. *vain conceit* – thinking and acting at all times like it's about you—that your desires your preferences and your opinions are more valuable than those of everyone else

D. A true Christlike posture towards others:

- a. *Rather, in humility value others above yourselves (v. 3b)*
- b. *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (v. 4)*

II. The perfect model for a right relationship with God and others is Christ Himself. (vs. 5-11)

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

-Without Christ, none of this is possible. But with Christ, not only are these things possible but they are made even clearer because we look to Christ as our example of what it looks like to live them out!

-vs. 6: *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

-Jesus did not exploit His divinity for personal gain on a human level.

-vs. 7: *rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

-Jesus did not forfeit His nature or deity, but rather took on the essence of humanity **ALONG** with His divinity – and *became a servant to us*. (see **2 Corinthians 8:9** below)

-vs. 8: *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

-Thanks be to God, Christ redeemed the cross and redeemed us by the cross!

vs. 9a: *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place (see **Hebrews 1:3-4, 2:9**)*

NOTE: When the Bible says “every,” it means EVERY:

- 1.) **vs. 9b:** *gave him the name that is above every name,*
- 2.) **vs. 10:** *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
- 3.) **vs. 11a:** *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord—every tongue will confess the LORDSHIP of Christ*

ALL – to the glory of God the Father—

Practical Applications:

-Having the same attitude as Christ Jesus, our Lord and our perfect example of how to live a life pleasing to God and for the betterment of our families, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors:

- 1.) Who you are in Christ is the most important thing about you – lean into His love, His encouragement, His comfort, His tenderness, and compassion.
- 2.) Out of a right relationship with Christ will flow the very best you can give to others—the Good News of the gospel along with genuine love, genuine compassion, genuine comfort, genuine wisdom for right living.
- 3.) The best outcomes in ALL your human relationships will come from thinking of yourself less and prioritizing the interests of others more.
- 4.) In every relationship and in all you do, have the mindset and follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is the perfect model for a right relationship with God and others. Follow Him daily as a TRUE DISCIPLE.

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Luke 9:23-25: *Then Jesus said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?*

2 Corinthians 8:9: *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

“At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.” –John Stott

–“No one could have honored God the Father more than God the Son. The measure of His sublimity corresponds with the depth of His humility.” –John Chrysostom