

Lesson 3

Joy in Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

In the previous verses, Paul tells us how to stand strong when persecution from those outside the church comes against us for our faith. In these next verses, he speaks to us about how we are to handle conflicts from within the body of Christ. In order to remain unified, the body of Christ should exhibit humility among the believers. The greatest example of this is the humility of Christ which every believer needs to cultivate in their life.

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

1. Paul's use of the word "if" in verse 1 of this section of scripture can be translated as "since." Paul wanted to remind the Philippian believers of what they had experienced at salvation. What four remembrances did Paul list in this verse?

1)

2)

3)

4)

2. Verse 2 lists four practical ways that the expressions of unity in verse 1 will manifest, will make themselves known. What are they?
 - a. What is it the church members were to be 'like-minded" and "of one mind" about? (Hint: Phil. 1:27)
 - b. How would this kind of behavior from the believers in Philippi affect Paul? Why do you think he would feel that way?
3. It is often the case that it is our internal attitudes rather than external circumstances that destroy unity. How can the attitudes listed in verse 2 bring unity to a church?

PERSONAL: Read Colossians 3:12-16 which complement Philippians 2:1-2. As you ponder the behaviors listed in these verses, choose the one you believe you've made the most victory in achieving. Conversely, find the one you know the Lord is working on and that you need prayer for.

4. Reading verses 3 and 4, what are some dos and don'ts of achieving spiritual unity in the body of Christ?

DO NOT...	DO...

- a. Can you think of a practical example of how you can live this out in your daily life either at home or outside the home (at work, school, grocery store, etc.?)

- b. Is it ever wrong to think of your own interests? Why or why not?
5. In verse 3, Paul exhorted the Philippians to consider others before themselves. He described the attitude in which this should be done as “humility.” Look up the following verses and write what you learn about this character trait of “humility.”

Proverbs 18:12 –

Proverbs 22:4 –

Proverbs 3:34 –

Isaiah 57:15 –

Colossians 3:12 –

2 Timothy 2:24-25 –

1 Peter 5:5-6 –

- a. Explain how these attitudes will promote unity in a congregation.
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6. In verse 5, Paul points to Christ Jesus as someone who exemplified the kind of life described in verses 3-4. What did Paul instruct the Philippian believers in this verse?

- a. Many people feel that they can't control their moods and attitudes. How do the following verses challenge this thinking?

Romans 8:5-6 –

2 Corinthians 10:5 –

Philippians 4:8 –

7. What was the mind of Christ and the attitude of Christ as mentioned in verses 6-8?

8. How did God the Father respond to Jesus' willingness to humble Himself in obedience to the Father's will?

9. Read Philippians 2:10-11 and record how Jesus will one day be honored by everyone.
 - a. If someone verbally confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, does that mean they are saved (a Christian)? (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46)
 - b. What is the proof that Jesus Christ is truly your Lord? (John 15:14; James 2:17-18)

10. In your own words, write a definition of humility. Think of a biblical example of someone who exemplified humility. Explain the circumstances, how this person displayed humility in their life, and how their humility brought blessing into their life.

Share one thing from this lesson that has ministered to you and how you will apply this lesson to your life.



