

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore
A Study in Philippians — May 27, 2020
Philippians 2:1-13

Introduction/Review

- We left off by discussing how we can rejoice in any circumstance.
- To live is Christ. So while we live, it means fruitful labor.
- As we partner together in the gospel, we pursue a life worthy of the gospel.
- Paul now gives us the example of what that looks like.

Read Philippians 2:1-13

Verses 1-2

1 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.

- Encouragement in Christ = How did Jesus teach us to live, act, and treat others through His teaching, and His own personal example?
 - Sermon on the Mount
- Comfort from love = Love God. Love others. The two great commandments.
- Participation in the Spirit = There is one Spirit, and He inhabits us all.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”
 - Fellowship with one another for the sake of the gospel.
 - This is about Unity, not Uniformity.
- Affection and sympathy = the compassion of Jesus needs to guide our view of others.
- We are to have the same mind and the same love
 - This is exactly why Jesus warned against division.
 - **Matthew 12:30**, “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”
 - **1 Corinthians 12:25-26**, “that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

Verses 3-4

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.

- **Matthew 22:39**, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- **Romans 12:10**, “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”
- No, this does not mean everyone is better than you. It’s not a self-deprecating worldview. **[pride-filled humility]**
 - Do you not take care of yourself? Feed yourself? Clothe yourself?
- **1 John 3:17-18**, “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”
 - We are to have unreserved love for God and others.
- **1 Timothy 5:8**, “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
 - Yes, our primary concern are for those God has entrusted to us. However, our compassion should not stop at our front door.

Verses 5-8

5 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.

- The ultimate example of Jesus
 - Jesus always was **[John 1:1]**. He was never subordinate to God in His heavenly form. He was never trying to elevate Himself to the level of God.
 - He always was, and is, and is to come...fully God.
- When he took the form of man, He temporarily set aside the manifestations of His heavenly glory to fulfill what needed to be done for the sake/love of mankind. **[humility]**.
 - Jesus understood what was necessary for man’s salvation, and did not need to hold on to **[grasp]** is heavenly manner of existence.
 - It was not something He would lose, but rather temporarily set aside only to be glorified once again in His resurrection.
 - **QUOTE:** “...his true nature is characterized not by selfish grabbing, but by open-handed giving.” (Gerald Hawthorne)
- Jesus took the form of a servant
 - Our king took on the form of a servant, without relinquishing his kingship.
 - **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 by his poverty might become rich.” **[paradox of Christianity]**

- Christ's humility was such that the threat of death, in the most humiliating way, did not stop Him or alter His obedience.

Verses 9-11

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.

- It is His name that is glorified above all others.
 - He alone accomplished what no other religious leader has ever claimed or completed.
 - It is why we don't take His name in vain. It is why many will become offended at the mention of His name. It is why we pray in His name. It is why we will all glorify His name upon seeing Him again.
 - It's more than a birth certificate name. It holds power, honor, and glory.

Verses 12-13

12 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.

- So with Jesus' example spoken, we are now exhorted to do likewise... to the fullest extent.
- Obedience in this situation refers to "acting upon what you've heard" **[listen/hear]**
 - Did you listen attentively to God's Word, which came through Paul's instruction?
- Our obedience to God's Word is "worked out" through our active sanctification.
 - **Galatians 5:16, 25**, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
 - **QUOTE:** "We serve a holy God, we have a strong and crafty adversary, and we are weak and dependent on God for all that we need. Such awareness will produce the attitude of 'fear and trembling' that Paul advocated. This attitude is not inconsistent with joy and confidence in the Lord." (Dr. Thomas Constable)
- This is not a "let go and let God" situation. Rather, an immense dependency on which God works on your behalf, but not without taking you along and using you to accomplish His mission.
 - We are not to sit back, relinquish responsibility, and wait to 'see what happens'.
 - **Romans 7:18**, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out."

- When we don't have the mental/emotional/spiritual ability, or know how to do what we ought to do, that is when we cry out to the Lord for He will always know what to do and help us do it.
- It is for us to work = produce; fruitful labor
- It is for God to work = provide the energy to do what we need to do.
 - **James 4:2**, "You do not have, because you do not ask."

Discussion Questions

1. What did God tell you?
2. What did God teach you?
3. What is God tasking you to do?
4. What is the difference between Unity and Uniformity? Why does this matter to our sanctification?
5. What is true humility?
6. What does Jesus' life teach Christians about demanding their rights?
7. What was the whole purpose of Christ's humiliation and exaltation?