

# THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

## PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2:1-4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### “UNITY, THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT THING” – PART 2

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:  
Joy, Peace, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text;

Philippians 2:1-4

#### Philippians 2:1-4

**Therefore** if there is any **consolation** in Christ, if any **comfort** of love, if any **fellowship** of the Spirit, if any **affection** and **mercy**, **2** fulfill my joy **by being like-minded**, **(1)** **having** the **same love**, **(2)** being of **one accord**, **(3)** of **one mind**. **3** **Let** nothing be done through **selfish ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of mind **let each esteem** others **better** than himself. **4** **Let** each of you **look out** not only for his **own interests**, but also for the **interests of others**.

In the words of that **immortal philosopher, Tina Turner**,  
When she asked - **“What’s Love Got to Do With It?”**  
The Answer is – it has everything to do with it!

#### Ephesians 4:14-15

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, even Christ.

Because according to the Bible, **Love came down in**  
human flesh and lived in this world - **convicting** us of sin, **pointing** us to His cross, **showing**  
us the way of salvation.

**Because, It was love that said;**

**John 14:1**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, **believe also in Me.**”

**Because, It was love that said;**

**John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am **the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Because, It was love that said;**

**John 14:15**

“If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**”

**UNITY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MOST IMPORTANT THING  
HUMILITY CREATES UNITY**

**1a.) A Christ centered humility softens our hearts vs. 1-2a**

**Therefore** if there is any **consolation** in Christ, if any **comfort** of love, if any **fellowship** of the Spirit, if any **affection**, and **mercy**, 2 fulfill my joy by being **like-minded**,

**because we have been created by God to experience;**

**consolation**, rest, **comfort**, persistent love, **fellowship** bonded partnership, **affection**  
intestinal **mercy**, merciful acts

**these attributes being present, creates a like-mindedness,**

**UNITY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MOST IMPORTANT THING  
HUMILITY CREATES UNITY**

**1b.) A Christ centered humility causes us to care vs. 2b**

**Philippians 2:1-4**

**(1) having** the **same love**, **(2) being of one accord**, **(3) of one mind**

**!!! There is a Grand Assumption Here !!!**

Notice, none of these actions or qualities or virtues are to be done in a vacuum. Christianity is a public faith because the Christian is a social being.

**John 18:19 NIV**

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. :20 "I have spoken openly to the world, I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.

**Verse 2b**

(1) **Having** the **same** - - that is **Having** the same Holy Spirit that lives inside the Christian is the very source for our unity. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are members of the Body of Christ, the Church united.

**The Significance of One Word in the Bible Matters !**

**Have** or **Having**

**Ephesians 4:11-13a**

And He Himself (Jesus) gave some (by the HS) to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, and for the **edifying of the body** of Christ, **13** till we all come to the **unity of the faith** and **of the knowledge** of the Son of God,

**But How Does God Do This in Our Lives ?**

**John 14:15-18**

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

( note here that the trinity is represented )

**Colossians 1:27**

To them (the gentile world) God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the **hope** (the firm reality) of glory.

**Romans 8:16**

The Spirit Himself **bears witness** (God gives testimony) with to our spirit that we are children of God,

the **same love**, = The **same love** (meaning) it's is the same love that God shows toward you and I. (we cannot truly love other people until we know what God's love is for us)

**John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **35** By this all **contacts** will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another."

This "Christ-centered humility" **causes** us to care for others.

**Being of one accord**, = Joined at the Soul or Co-Linked or Interdependent. There are no spiritual Lone Rangers in the church of Jesus Christ.

of **one mind**. = to think the **same thoughts** at the **same time** about the **same topic**. (a company's or a team's dream come true) – those who do will arrive at the same point at the same moment for the same reason.

**Psalm 133:1**

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For **brethren** to dwell together in **unity!**

Being "**brethren**" is the qualifier, to "**dwelt together**" is their new nature, and the result is "**unity**"

## So What Does That Look Like ?

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be **perfectly joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.

**We saw an unusual display of God's power here**

**A couple of Wednesday nights ago. It was God at work.**

Keep in mind that what I am going to tell you took place in a room of a couple thousand people. After our time of communion and worship, we paused and I asked the people to "shout out a verses or passage that might encourage all of us" well before the night was over, at four different times, and through eight different people, - they shouted out the exact same verses at the exact same time in perfect stereo, even the exact same bible version.

## UNITY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MOST IMPORTANT THING HUMILITY CREATES UNITY

1c.) A Christ centered life keeps us on target

vs. 3

### What is The Target(s) that We're Focused On?

It's the debasement of my self, it's me willfully removing myself from the front of the line.

**Let** nothing be done through (1) **selfish ambition** or (2) **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of mind **let each esteem** others **better** than himself

This is Perhaps the **Single Most Damaging Cancer** Within Any Church;  
When Christians fail at keeping themselves "Christ-Centered" in Life.

**selfish ambition:** to use a veiled motive. To use intrigue, trickery, or scheming. To plot a course that results in self recognition. an ego-centric, self-absorbed, self-love.

#### James 3:13-16

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. **16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

### When we forget that Jesus Christ is Listening and

Watching, We gravitate toward "Self-Counsel" Self-Advice. We Actually Enthroned Ourselves. It's this "Self Promotion" that is Native to Our Fallen Nature. – it's a fatal move.

**Conceit** **kenodoxia**, ken-od-ox-ee'-ah; an empty glory, a false or manmade glory. An arranged, manipulated glory. The glory of this world. ( a Disney, Universal Studio's kinda glory )

### The Picture That Paul's Words Paint

Are powerful and graphic to the Philippians.

#### 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. **25** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. **Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown (a laurel wreath)**, but we for an **imperishable crown (of gold)**.

**lowliness:** **tapeinophrosune**, tap-i-nof-ros-oo'-nay; base humiliation of the mind, true modesty, humbleness of mind, **a man who himself is a stranger to his thoughts.** loneliness of mind.

The moment you think that you are humble  
is the moment that you are anything but. - Jack

## We can hide behind words, and the meaning

of a word can be twisted.

Actions are all together different – actions reveal the truth.

Question to All;  
How do you know God loves you?

You can only know that by His actions. What action has He taken to  
show you that He loves you?

### Romans 5:8

But God **demonstrates** His own love toward us,  
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### Verse 3b

**let each esteem** others **better** than himself

**esteem:** hJge ÷ omai hegeomai, hayg-eh'-om-ahē; **to approach another with a high value of them**, to consider, account, to judge worthy of. To extend the best toward another.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP

**Love** suffers long and is kind; **Love** does not envy; **Love** does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5 Love** does not behave rudely, **Love** does not seek its own, is not provoked, **Love** thinks no evil; **6 Love** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7 Love** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **Love** endures all things. **:8 Love** never fails.

## UNITY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MOST IMPORTANT THING HUMILITY CREATES UNITY

1d.) A Christ centered life **opens** up our eyes vs. 4

**Let** each of you **look out** not only for his **own interests**, but also  
for the **interests of others**.

This is exactly the model that Jesus showed us. If the eternal God came to serve mankind with His life, how much more are we to be willing to do the same for those whom He loves?

**John 13:12-15**

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? **13** You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

**A Jack Observation:**

Only after we wake up and realize that Jesus Christ is looking out for us, that He has promised to take care of us, we needn’t any longer have to focus on what’s good for us or what’s in it for me - - because we have committed ourselves to Christ, we can put our passion and effort into loving others because we are secure and settled ourselves.

For an unbeliever of this world it is all about him being first, others second and God in a deliberate last.

The exact opposite is true for the redeemed heart and mind. The Christian is all about God being first, others second and ourselves a deliberate last.

**James Montgomery Boice**

“Caring for one another is at the heart of a right relationship with God, and all rebellion against God is inevitably linked to a corresponding disregard for others.”

**look out “not”** **skop’e-o**, *skop-eh’-o*; to take aim at (**not yourself**) or focus upon, (**not yourself**) to gaze or wonder at (**not yourself**) – to stare (**not at yourself**).

**The Ministry of Others**

**The Chinese Evangelist, Watchmen Nee tells of an encounter**

he had with a man who had a rice paddy terrace in inland china. Each day the man would go and flood his fields with water to promote the growth of his rice. But he noticed that later in the day his crops were dry and the water gone. He discovered

that the neighboring farmer below his fields would secretly drain the water into his own field leaving his dry. At first the man ignored this act of robbery but as time went on he could not produce enough rice to feed his family. He became bitter and angry and determined to confront his unlawful neighbor. Before he did the man went and talked to the elders of his church. They prayed with him and gave him scripture and encouraged him that God would tell him what to do. So as the man made his way back home, an idea came rushing into his mind. He remembered what they had told him, what Jesus had said in the Gospel, "*Bless those who curse you and do good to those who use you*" Just then he knew exactly what to do and on the next day, before he flooded his fields as he had always done, he made sure that his neighbor's field was flooded first. After three days of this, the unlawful neighbor came to him and said "*Why are you doing this to me? I have been stealing your water and I have been expecting a confrontation with you, yet you have done this good to me.*" The man replied; "*The Jesus of the Bible told me to do this to you.*" And within three months this unlawful neighbor became a follower of Jesus Christ!

**This is Uniquely Christian;  
"to approach another with a high value of them."**

## **How do we go about putting others first?**

**First**, we need to ask God to take us out of the line-up. **Second** we must confess that we do not have it within us to love like Jesus, we need the Holy Spirit's power for that. **Third**, we need to practice the heart of Christ toward others – "this is what Jesus has done for me – I now choose to do this for you for Jesus' sake!

————— *End of Study* —————

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