



PHILIPPIANS

BASICS FOR BELIEVERS

Lesson Three:
**Adopt Jesus' Death as a
Test of Your Outlook**
(Philippians 1:27 – 2:18)

Part 2: Philippians 2:1-4

Basics for Believers

1. Put the Gospel First (1:1-26)
2. Focus on the Cross (1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 2:5-11)
3. Adopt Jesus' Death as a Test of Your Outlook
(1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 1:27-30; 2:1-4, 12-18)
4. Emulate Worthy Christian Leaders (2:19 – 3:21)
5. Never Give Up the Christian Walk (4:1-23)

Outline for Lesson Three

Three implications that the cross has for believers who follow Christ Jesus:

1. We Are Called Not Only to Believe on Christ but Also to Suffer for Him (1:27-30)
2. We Are Called Not Only to Enjoy the Comforts of the Gospel but Also to Pass Them On (2:1-4)
3. We Are Called Not Only to Take Early Steps of Faith and Obedience but Also to Work Out Our Salvation Throughout our Lives (2:12-18)

Philippians 2:1

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy ...

- **Four gospel realities** that we already share as believers
- These are certainties!

Philippians 2:1

*So if there is **any encouragement in Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy ...*

- Encouragement that believers receive from being united with Christ
- Deep comfort from know Christ has taken us as His own
- Literally, “*come alongside*” – to help, exhort, counsel
- Shared union with Christ

Philippians 2:1

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, **any comfort from love**, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy ...*

- Comfort that believers receive from God's love
- God's covenant love expressed through the gospel

Philippians 2:1

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, **any participation in the Spirit**, any affection and sympathy ...*

- Participation – fellowship, partnership (see Phil. 1:5)
- Holy Spirit gives believers a shared mission, shared power, and shared identity
- Holy Spirit produces the fruit that makes unity possible – e.g., love, patience, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Unity is not a human achievement, it's a Spirit-produced reality

Philippians 2:1

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any **affection and sympathy** ...*

- Deep, heartfelt concern – warmth, compassion, and mercy
- Opposite of coldness, indifference, or harshness
- These qualities are not “natural” to us in our condition (flesh); they are the **outworking of the gospel**
- A gospel-shaped community is marked by **tender hearts**, not hard ones

Philippians 2:1

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy ...

Four gospel realities:

- **Encouragement in Christ** – shared union with Christ; unity begins here
- **Comfort from love** – experience and remember God's love, extends love
- **Participation in the Spirit** – fruit of the Spirit that produces unity
- **Affection and sympathy** – like love (above), experience/remember tenderheartedness, extend that tenderheartedness

Philippians 2:2

... complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- Four gospel realities (2:1) lead to **three gospel obligations**

Philippians 2:2

*... complete my joy by **being of the same mind**, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*

- “think the same way”, “being like-minded”
- This is not a calling to have identical opinions on every topic and issue
- Paul is calling for a **shared mindset** – a way of seeing life **through the lens of the gospel**
- This means evaluating priorities, relationships, and decisions **with Christ at the center**

Philippians 2:2

*... complete my joy by being of the same mind, **having the same love**, being in full accord and of one mind.*

- The love that flows from God to His people, and then from His people to **one another**
- Not sentimental affection, but rather ... **sacrificial, Christlike love**
- Is unity possible without love? Can a church who agrees on doctrine and mission, but has no love, abide in unity?

Philippians 2:2

... complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- “united in spirit, intent on one purpose”; “being one in spirit and of one mind”
- Two phrases to emphasize the **depth of unity** that Paul desires
- Not superficial friendliness but a shared purpose and direction; **unity of heart and mission**
- Not sameness, but **togetherness**; a group of people moving in the **same direction** because they share the **same gospel priorities**

Philippians 2:2

*... complete my joy by **being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.***

Three gospel obligations:

- **Being of the same mind** – shared mindset; “gospel lens”
- **Having the same love** – mutual, sacrificial Christlike love
- **Being in full accord and of one mind** – togetherness, harmony, unity of purpose

Philippians 2:3a

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit ...

- Heart-level dangers that destroy unity!

Philippians 2:3a

*Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit ...*

- The drive to **advance self**
- Desire to push one's own agenda, gain influence, or secure recognition
- **Pride** that prompts people to push for their own way
- “My way is best!” Or, “I deserve to be heard!”
- Selfish ambition is **poison** to unity:
 - Turns ministry into **competition**
 - Turns relationships into **power struggles**

Philippians 2:3a

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or **conceit** ...*

- Vain glory; hunger for praise
- Desire to be admired, respected, or seen as superior; the **craving for glory** that belongs to God alone
- Conceit is the **motivation** for selfish ambition!
- Conceit is fundamentally **anti-gospel** because the gospel calls us to **die to self**, not to exalt self

Philippians 2:3a

*Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or **conceit** ...*

- **Selfish ambition** - drive to advance self; push one's own agenda
- **Conceit** - one's hunger for praise and glory; self-admiration

Philippians 2:3b-4

*... but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

- If selfish ambition and conceit destroy unity, then **humility** builds it!

Philippians 2:3b-4

*... but in humility **count others more significant than yourselves**. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

- Basic definition of true **humility** – considering others more significant than oneself
- Choose to **prioritize** others; put others first
- Treat others' needs, concerns, and growth as **weightier** than your own
- Humility is a **deliberate act of the will**, not a “feeling”; it's active

Philippians 2:3b-4

*... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you **look not only to his own interests**, but also to the interests of others.*

- Paul assumes we naturally **care for ourselves**
- The issue is not **self-neglect** but **self-forgetfulness**
- “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but **thinking of yourself less**”
- The gospel **frees us** from being preoccupied with ourselves so we can **pay attention to others**

Philippians 2:3b-4

*... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but **also to the interests of others.***

- Actively seeking the **good** of others; this is the **heart of Christlike humility**
- It means asking, “How can I serve? How can I encourage? How can I help?”
- **Humility** is the indispensable virtue for Christian community
- Without humility, unity is impossible

Philippians 2:3b-4

... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

In humility ...

- Count others more significant than yourselves – prioritize others
- Look not only to his own interests – natural self-care
- But also to the interests of others – deliberate orientation toward others' good

Philippians 2:1-4

The gospel does not stop with us.

We are called not only to enjoy the comforts of the gospel but also to pass them on.

The call to unity and humility is ultimately a call to follow the One who poured Himself out for us – Jesus Christ – and who now calls us to pour ourselves out for one another.

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