

Text Outline **Philippians 2:1-18**

I. **Therefore**

A. **if**

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

B. ² **then make my joy complete by being like-minded,**

1. having the same love,
2. being one in spirit
3. and of one mind.
4. ³ **Do nothing out of**
 - a) *selfish ambition*
 - b) *or vain conceit.*
5. **Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,**
6. ⁴ **not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

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

A. ⁶ **Who, being in very nature^[a] God,**

1. **did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;**
2. ⁷ **rather, he made himself nothing**
 - a) *by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,*
 - b) *being made in human likeness.*
 - c) ⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man,*
 - d) *he humbled himself*
 - e) *by becoming obedient to death—*
 - f) *even death on a cross!*

B. ⁹ **Therefore**

1. **God exalted him to the highest place**
2. **and gave him the name that is above every name,**
3. ¹⁰ **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,**
 - a) *in heaven*
 - b) *and on earth*
 - c) *and under the earth,*
4. ¹¹ **and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

III. ¹² **Therefore, my dear friends,**

A. **as you have always obeyed—**

1. **not only in my presence,**

2. **but now much more in my absence—**
- B. continue to**
1. **work out your salvation with**
a) fear
b) and trembling,
2. ¹³ **for it is God who works in you**
a) to will
b) and to act
c) in order to fulfill his good purpose.
- C. ¹⁴ Do everything**
1. **without grumbling or arguing,**
2. ¹⁵ **so that you may become**
a) blameless
b) and pure,
c) “children of God without fault in a
(1) warped
(2) and crooked generation.”^[a]
3. **Then you**
a) will shine among them like stars in the sky
b) ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.
- D. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ**
1. **that I did not run or labor in vain.**
2. ¹⁷ **But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering**
a) on the sacrifice
b) and service coming from your faith,
c) I am
(1) glad
(2) and rejoice with all of you.
- d) ¹⁸ So you too should be*
(1) glad
(2) and rejoice with me.

Conceptual Outline

IV. Encouragement to be united

A. 4 “if any” of fellowship

B. Then, be like-minded

1. To everyone

a) *Same love*

b) *One in spirit*

c) *One mind*

2. To individuals

a) *Do nothing out of conceit or selfish ambition*

b) *Value others as better*

c) *Look not only for own interests*

V. Like-minded & one mind is result of having Christ’s mind

A. Portrait of Christ’s humility

1. Did not consider equality with God for his own advantage

2. made himself nothing

3. took the form of a servant

4. became human, appeared as a man

5. humbled himself

6. obedient to death

7. death on a cross

B. God’s exaltation of Christ

1. Gave Him the name above every name

2. at His name, every knee should bow

3. every tongue acknowledge Him as Lord

VI. Work out your salvation

A. Awareness of God’s work in us lead us to fearfully live out His purpose

B. As we live in purity, we will shine like stars in this crooked world

C. The Apostle Paul’s sacrifice will not be in vain

Theme: Christian unity/fellowship is rooted in our having the mind of Christ which is a humble mind in action.

Questions:

I. In your relationship with other believers, have you ever run into conflicts? Have you been in fellowships where people don't like one another? How did you handle the relationships? What do you think is the ideal way to handle these situations?

II. Vs. 1-5 After sharing in Ch. 1 about his appreciation of the Philippians' partnership in the gospel, how Paul rejoices even in sufferings and attacks by fellow believers, and about his aims to exalt Christ in life or in death, Paul starts this chapter with four "if any"s.

A. What are they? What do they have in common? How is "if any" different from just "if"? What is Paul trying to say with these "if any"s?

B. What is Paul's instruction if there's any Christian love and fellowship? Let's make a list of the "Do"s & "Don't"s.

C. Among the "do"s, what is Paul's emphasis in v.2? What does it mean to be like-minded? Are we to work like robots? What if I have passion for one thing and others have passions for other things? Does unity mean that we have to do that same thing and same way? What if I am willing to practice unity but others don't?

Another way to categorize this list is by things that we should all do and things that I should do.

D. In Paul's instruction about unity in fellowship, he focuses on humility. How does he define humility? Can you offer some practical ways of valuing others above yourself or thinking of other's interests?

III. Vs. 5-11 If we are to be like-minded, we are to have the mind of Christ. vs. 6-8 give us a portrait of what Christ's mind is like.

A. Looking over the 3 verses, can you give a 1 word summary of what Christ's mind is like? Can we identify the 7 steps of Christ's humility? Where does Christ's humility begin? What does this mindset lead next?

B. What does "made himself nothing" mean? Did He lose His Deity when He became man? What then, did He give up? Why is it so important and precious to us that Christ became a man?

C. What does God do with Christ's humility, servant hood, obedience and sacrifice? Is there any exclusion of this worship? What would you do differently in your life knowing this reality about the future?

IV. Vs.12 - 18 Paul began this section with another therefore.

A. Why "therefore"? Because of Christ's humility and the future reality, what does Paul ask the Philippians to do? What does "work out your salvation" mean? How is our working out different from God's work "in" us? Why do we need to do it with "fear & trembling" v.12?

B. As we learn to practice obeying the truth and living out servant hood, what are we often tempted to do if we see others not doing the same thing? Why is "grumbling & arguing" prohibited? What is at stake if we grumble & argue? What is the benefit Christian living in unity?

C. Paul concluded this section by saying in vs. 16-18 that if the Philippians hold firm, he'll be able to boast and his labor would not be in vain? Is that pride and therefore contrary to what he was trying to teach? He drew a portrait of Christ's humility and exaltation earlier, what picture is he drawing with these verses?

V. After reviewing the portraits of Christ's and Paul's humility, how would you handle your conflict with other believers? What can you learn from these examples of humility?

Questions & Potential Answers:

I. In your relationship with other believers, have you ever run into conflicts? Have you been in fellowships where people done like one another? How did you handle the relationships? What do you think is the ideal way to handle these situations?

II. Vs. 1-5 After sharing in Ch. 1 about his appreciation of the Philippians' partnership in the gospel, how Paul rejoices even in sufferings and attacks by fellow believers, and about his aims to exalt Christ in live or in death, Paul starts this chapter with four "if any"s.

A. What are they? What do they have in common? How is "if any" different from just "if"? What is Paul trying to say with these "if any"s?

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

Common: conditions of fellowship, all inclusive, all in Christ, all positives, all outward doing for one another.

if any means can be minimal

He's saying even if we have minimal desire to live out our Christian love, then...

B. What is Paul's instruction if there's any Christian love and fellowship? Let's make a list of the "Do"s & "Don't"s.

Do	Don't
Being like-minded	Do nothing out of selfish ambition
Having the same love	Do nothing out of vain conceit
being one in spirit	not looking to your own interests
of one mind	
humility	
value others above yourselves	
Look to the interests of the others	

C. Among the "do"s, what is Paul's emphasis in v.2? What does it mean to be like-minded? Are we to work like robots? What if I have passion for one thing and others have passions for other things? Does unity mean that we have to do that same thing and same way? What if I am willing to practice unity but others don't?

Being like-minded, unity. Not to do the same thing nor being like robots. We can all have different passions, calling, gifts, etc., but we must be of one mind, the mind of Christ. If we all mind Christ's mind, then we have the same mind. This is a call to all believers of Christ. Yet in reality, most of us mind our own minds and that's why we have splits & divisions. However, this calling stands even if others don't have the mind of Christ. Another way to categorize this list is by things that we should all do and things that I should do. There are specific instructions to me as an individual.

All of us	All but each individual in particular
Being like-minded	value others above yourselves
Having the same love	Do nothing out of selfish ambition
being one in spirit	Do nothing out of vain conceit
of one mind	Look to the interests of the others
humility	not looking to your own interests

Even if others don't, I'm to value them as more important, look to their interests, etc.

D. In Paul's instruction about unity in fellowship, he focuses on humility. How does he define humility? Can you offer some practical ways of valuing others above yourself or thinking of other's interests?

Value others as more important, not looking to my own interests but theirs. If I value others, I'll listen to them, support them & their ministries. I would like think my ministry as the most important. I would help to the best of my ability. I would affirm them of their success. I would rejoice in their success.

III. Vs. 5-11 If we are to be like-minded, we are to have the mind of Christ. vs. 6-8 give us a portrait of what Christ's mind is like.

A. Looking over the 3 verses, can you give a 1 word summary of what Christ's mind is like? Can we identify the 7 steps of Christ's humility? Where does Christ's humility begin? What does this mindset lead next?

Humble, sacrificial.

1. Did not consider equality with God for his own advantage
2. made himself nothing
3. took the form of a servant
4. became human, appeared as a man

5. humbled himself
6. obedient to death
7. death on a cross

His humility began in the mind. He "consider." Then, it lead to actions - made himself nothing, taking nature of servant, obedience, and self-sacrifice.

B. What does "made himself nothing" mean? Did He lose His Deity when He became man? What then, did He give up? Why is it so important and precious to us that Christ became a man?

He let go of his rightful claims. Whatever that He's entitled to as God. No, He was fully God and fully man. He gave up His position, power, authority, rights, life.

1. He reveals God to us.
2. He gave us an example of how to live.
3. He became the substitution of our sins & saved us because He was God & was sinless as a man.
4. He won victory over sin, death, & Satan.
5. Fully human, He understands my pain & my struggles.

C. What does God do with Christ's humility, servant hood, obedience and sacrifice? Is there any exclusion of this worship? What would you do differently in your life knowing this reality about the future?

1. He exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name (along with name is power and authority.)
2. Everything that has knee will bow to Him. Everything that has tongue will confess Him as Lord. No exception. It is all inclusive. We either start doing it now when we can have a choice or have to do it one day when we'll not have a choice and the benefits of that choice.
3. I'll learn to worship Him as God, obey & proclaim Him as Lord.

IV. Vs.12 - 18 Paul began this section with another therefore.

A. Why "therefore"? Because of Christ's humility and the future reality, what does Paul ask the Philippians to do? What does "work out your salvation" mean? How is our working out different from God's work "in" us? Why do we need to do it with "fear & trembling" v.12?

- Because of Christ's humility and the future reality that everything has to worship Him.

- In obedience work out our salvation, do everything without grumbling & arguing.
- Work out means living out the reality that's in us. This is the process of sanctification, becoming like Christ. In status, we've been justified, holy people, saints, etc. In life, we have to work toward becoming one, living like one. Yet, all this does not depend on our own efforts. We began with Christ. Now, we depend on God to work in us so that we can do His good purpose.

B. As we learn to practice obeying the truth and living out servant hood, what are we often tempted to do if we see others not doing the same thing? Why is "grumbling & arguing" prohibited? What is at stake if we grumble & argue? What is the benefit Christian living in unity?

- not grumble or argue
- Humility starts with the mind, translates into action, and upholds by the right attitudes. Pride, jealousy, grumbling, arguing is excluded from humble hearts & destroy unity.
- We'll become blameless & pure. We'll shine like stars in this world.

C. Paul concluded this section by saying in vs. 16-18 that if the Philippians hold firm, he'll be able to boast and his labor would not be in vain. Is that pride and therefore contrary to what he was trying to teach? He drew a portrait of Christ's humility and exaltation earlier, what picture is he drawing with these verses?

- No. That's similar to Christ's exaltation. In His labor, God will reward him. It is proper to long for that. It is what God has promised His faithful servants.
- run, labor, pouring out as a drink offering (emptying himself, making himself nothing.)

V. After reviewing the portraits of Christ's and Paul's humility, how would you handle your conflict with other believers? What can you learn from these examples of humility?