

PHILIPPIANS 2a

It is appropriate in a week of stark differences of opinion to be reminded that as a church... WE ARE TO BE UNITED. Listen to these four rhetorical questions that the Apostle uses to make his point....

IF YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED....

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, **(There IS SO MUCH consolation)** if any comfort of love, **(tons of comfort!)** if any fellowship of the Spirit, **(look around)** if any affection and mercy, **(of course!)**

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

- Spiritually speaking... The church is to be united in love.
- If you are passionate about anything that would separate you from another Christian... BE CAREFUL! Do not let ambition or pride be your reason!

OTHERS!

3 *Let* nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- WHAT? Oh Family, this is ADVANCED Christianity!
- This is wrapping your pride in a towel and washing other people's feet...
- This is being nailed to an old rugged cross while praying for the guy driving nails through your hands and feet.
- This is serving people who are your critics.
- THIS IS FORGIVENESS!

HIGH INTERESTS RATES

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

- **COURSON** - I believe verse [Php 2:4](#) is really the key to verse [Php 2:3](#). I will esteem others as better than myself to the degree that I listen to their

stories and explore who they are—for if we knew the secret hurts and pains and suffering of even our worst enemy, we would find all of our animosity evaporating. If we looked into people instead of down on people, we would be filled with compassion for people.

- **Pray for; and find ways to help...** people who you struggle to like... or love. Even if only you and God know who they are.

THINK LIKE THIS

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

- Again, notice over and over again, the emphasis in this epistle is not on how we feel, but on how we think. **COURSON**
- Our mortal minds may have feelings, but... Our minds, our spirits should be like Christ's.
- Listen to how Jesus took deliberate steps DOWN to meet us...

THE LORD'S COURSE TO THE CROSS

7 but made Himself of no reputation, (**NLT - he gave up his divine privileges**) taking the form of a bondservant, (**Slave**) and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

- **STEPS JESUS TOOK:** 1. He gave up privileges. 2. He became a servant to others. 3. He became humble. 4. He met others at their level. 5. He was obedient; even unto death. 6. He died to Himself.
- **MY STEPS TO BECOMING LIKE CHRIST:** Y I K e S! (That's too uncomfortable)
- **Let's talk about YOUR STEPS to becoming like Christ...**
 - **1st step down = (What might it be?)**
 - **5 more to go... (Add another piece of paper if necessary)**

THE GLORY OF HEAVEN

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the

name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **The name of JESUS!**

- It gives us chills... His name draws us to worship Him... We pray in His name... We have been called the Jesus people – and that is a compliment to us.
- Call us “Jesus freaks” and we smile... Call us Christians, or Christ like and we beam.
- We have been known to shout “JESUS” at the top of our lungs at outdoor conferences. Ask us what the best part of heaven will be, and we say His name, JESUS!
- The day is coming when EVERY knee will bow to who? JESUS!

LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

- Chuck Smith warns: Do not stop here... Working out your own salvation – Don't try to work out your self-righteousness...
- Being good isn't good enough... **Keep reading!**

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- One of my favorite verses says:
- Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass. **PSALM 37:4,5**
- Fill your life with God... Bow your knee to Jesus... AND HE will put His will into your heart.

- It is NOT enough to just “believe” in God. Satan and his demons believe in God.
- Bow yourself to Him. Give your heart to Him. Delight in doing it!

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

- Commentators are split on whether this exhortation was to the Philippians specifically or to the Jews as a people. The COI had a bad track record of complaining about God and disputing with one another.
- There is a guy who calls me every 6 months or so who smugly wants to have a debate about the trinity. He’s not looking for ministry – He is practicing his debating skills. He called the church this week. I asked him to please STOP wasting time... Jesus said:
- **Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- **NLT** - Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ’s return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a *drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

- You got to love that the Apostle is SO looking forward to heaven that he invites the Philippians to rejoice with him. “I’m going to die...” Woo-hoo!
- I hope you too have that kind of heavenly anticipation. I DO! I just have to go AFTER Lynette... We have an understanding. **Be ready Beloved!** Cs30