

J.J. C.V.

THE CHRISTIAN MINDSET (IN THE CHURCH)
Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

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

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

It's not the first Sunday but it's May 31, let's pray for those celebrating their birthdays and their anniversaries

Timeline: Board of Elders Appointed next week – June 7

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Today, we're in Part 3 of the Christian Mindset within the church based on Philippians 2:1-11, continuing with our topic of "treat each other with **Humility."**

We should always Strive for 1. UNITY, Treat each other with 2. HUMILITY and Serve one another 3. SACRIFICIALLY

Reminder again, that these are interconnected based on how Paul wrote it.

What do I mean by this?

The church must strive for Unity but it can only happen if we treat each other with Humility and we can only treat each other with Humility if we serve one another Sacrificially just like our Lord Jesus Christ did.

(Pray first)

Once there was a lion who was proud of his supposed mastery of the animal kingdom. He proudly and confidently goes to the bear. "Who is the king of the jungle?" the lion asked. The bear trembling, replied, "Why, why, you are, of course, Mr. Lion." The lion then gave a mighty roar of approval. Next, he asked the tiger, "Who is the king of the jungle?" The tiger quickly replied, "Everyone knows that you are, oh great lion!" Once again, the lion roared with pride. Next on the list was the elephant. The lion boldly faced the elephant and addressed his question: "Who is the king of the jungle?" The elephant immediately grabbed the lion with his trunk, whirled him around the air and slammed him into a tree. Then he pounded him onto the ground several times, dunked him in water in a nearby lake, and finally threw him onto the shore. The lion – bruised and beaten – struggled to his feet. He looked at the elephant and said, " Hey! Just because you didn't know the answer is no reason for you to get so upset about it!

That's how the world is, no matter what happens, they will always try to keep their pride.

Quick review:

I. Strive for UNITY

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Reminder again why unity in the church is important? It's because it is the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17: 20 "My prayer is not for them alone (talking about the disciples). I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, (talking about all future believers which include us) 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Why is unity important to our Lord Jesus Christ?

Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
It's because our unity affects our witness.

But how can we be united? Remember, this are all connected.

HUMILITY IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT TO UNITY.

We started last week talking about humility. Let's do a quick review

2. Treat each other with HUMILITY.

Here's how we practice humility : Who remembers? Forget self and Value others.

(Repeat)

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Quick review on forgetting self.

- Forget self

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Etymology : "*Do nothing*" meden, "no one" "nothing" "not all"

Humility is not thinking of your self at all.

And this is contrary to how the world thinks. "Me first!" is the first motto of the world.

Quote : The very heart of sin is selfishness. The very heart of sin is ego, and when you come to Christ, your ego has to be surrendered to Christ. – Billy Graham

How do we know we're acting out of our ego? Two Things according to what we are studying.

FIRST : *out of selfish ambition*

Etymology : *selfish ambition* "eritheia" ; It's a word used in politics, electioneering. It's pushing our own agenda thinking that it's the best.

Again remember, we are not pushing our own agenda. There's only one agenda we should be pushing and it will eternally be the best agenda. and that's the Lord's agenda... and what is the Lord's agenda?

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

And this is the very context of Chapter 1. For Paul, the gospel is central! It should be the focus of the church. And that is what happens when we lose our focus – the activities become the focus, entertaining people becomes the focus, trying to show the world we are successful in our church because of all the activities and etc.

Example: I mentioned before the danger with church anniversaries is that the church is lifted up instead of Jesus Christ.

These are all VAIN CONCEIT.

SECOND: *or vain conceit.*

Etymology : vain conceit; KJV vain glory (kenodoxia)...kenos “empty” doxia “glory”
This is the only time this word is used in the Bible.

What does this mean? It’s wanting to lift ourselves up above someone else.

How do we know we have pride?

Quote : “Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not, they are proud of being richer, cleverer, or better-looking than others. If every one else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. **It is the comparison that makes you proud: The pleasure of being above the rest.** Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone.” C.S. Lewis

In short, if there’s comparison, then there’s pride. That’s why self-pity is also pride.

Why? It’s comparing ourselves to others.

TO CONTINUE...

We practice humility by forgetting self... That’s why a truly humble person seldom gets offended or not at all. Why? It’s because they’re already dead....his entire life is focus on our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Special Note: Do not worry about forgetting about yourself. You know why? It’s because God knows you anyway. God sees you. Remember, the Bible says, He has known you even before you were in your mother’s womb and He has chosen and loved you even before the foundation of the world (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 121) and He will never ever forget you.

Isaiah 49:15 “Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! (NLT)

And then, we mentioned by God’s grace, **the first antidote to pride, is to admit that you have it.**

James 3: 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Quote : I love how C.S. Lewis wrote this in his book “Mere Christianity”

“If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realise that one is proud. And a biggish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”

To continue : Let’s define first what humility is all about.

Rather, in humility

Pride is thinking highly of one’s self than they ought –

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought**, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Illustration from last week : Remember Satan’s example of saying “I” “I” “I”.

***Isaiah 14: 12 How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!***

***You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!***

13 You said in your heart,

“I will ascend to the heavens;

I will raise my throne

above the stars of God;

***I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.***

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High.”

15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

If pride is always about “I”, “I”, “I” HUMILITY IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE

Etymology: humility “tapeinaphrosune” “tapeinos” low “phren” mind...

KJV version : lowliness of mind

It means, you are thinking of yourself less. They have a servant mentality.

Quote :

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” – C.S. Lewis

Rick Warren expounded on this too

“Servants focus on others, not themselves. This is true humility: not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. They are self-forgetful.” – Rick Warren

So, how do we practice humility? FORGET SELF. VALUE OTHERS.

It involves valuing others. He's so interested in THE OTHER PERSON THAT it only naturally flows that he's forgetting himself.

- **Value others**

So how do we value others? Based on importance and interest.

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

1. Treat others as more important than yourself.

(This is very counter-cultural, where others want to be treated more important than others or at the very least equally important)

ESV

but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

KJV

but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Etymology: esteem “hegeomai” used to describe “princes, governors, chiefs, or leaders or commanders”

In short :

TREATING OTHERS AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF IS THINKING OF THEM AS YOUR PRINCE, GOVERNOR, CHIEF, LEADER OR COMMANDER.

Biblical Illustration: Our Lord Jesus said something about this.

He got invited to a prominent Pharisees house and then he noticed something.

Luke 14: 7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: 8 “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. 11 For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

So now, how do we know or how can we show that we are treating others more important than ourselves?

2. Take interest in others.

4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

I love how the Good News Translation wrote this:

And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own.

Look at how Timothy Keller and C.S. Lewis describes a humble person.

Quote : *“The thing we would remember from meeting a truly gospel-humble person is how much they seemed to be totally interested in us. Because the essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less.” – Timothy Keller*

C.S. Lewis had the same idea. Let me quote him again.

Quote: *Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.*

Let’s do some reflecting right now:

First, think about the person you really like to hang around with (I’ll give you 5 seconds)

One of their character traits is that they’re really interested in you and they truly listen to you.

Now, think about the person you avoid. (I’ll give you 5 seconds)

Aren’t they the “ako nga” people...People who like to talk about themselves always.

Or they are the “wawa” people... “kawawa naman ako”... in short, it’s all about themselves.

Remember as I mentioned, self-pity is also pride.

Or they are the “grrr” people... these are the people who are easily offended because again, they are full of pride.

Illustration: One time I was having dinner with this girl. (This is before I met my wife). While we were talking, she was nodding but I noticed she wasn’t looking at me but looking at something behind my back and she was smiling and fixing her hair. And then I looked at what’s behind my back, it was a big mirror. It was a big turn-off.

That’s why the Bible says:

*James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,***

Now, allow me to show you this :

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Quote: A truly humble person is others-oriented. They have a “you-first” mentality, NOT “I-first or me-first”

That’s why most of the commands in the New Testaments are commands about “one another”

Trivia : There are 59 “one another” commands in the Bible?

Almost half (20) of those commands has to do with Unity and Humility and then of course, the rest is about love and encouraging and praying for one another.

Here’s the list :

The One Another Commands for Unity

- Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
- Don’t grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
- Be of the same mind with one another (Rom 12:6; 15:5)
- Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
- Wait for one another (has to do with the Lord’s Table) (1 Co 11:33)
- Don’t bite, devour, and consume one another (Ga 5:15)
- Don’t challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26)
- Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Eph 4:2)
- Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Eph 4:32)
- Bear with and forgive one another (Col 3:13)
- Seek good for one another, and don’t repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
- Don’t complain against one another (James 4:11; 5:9)
- Confess sins to one another (James 5:16)

The One Another Commands for Humility

- Wash one another’s feet (Jn 13:14)
- Give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty (Ro 12:16)
- Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- Be subject to one another (Eph 5:21)
- Regard one another as more important (Ph 2:3)
- Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

The rest are variations of “Love one another”

- Love one another (Jn 13:34; 15:12; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12; 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11; 4:7; 2 Jn 5)
- Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- Tolerate one another in love (Eph 4:2)
- Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)
- Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

And here's the rest :

- Don't judge one another. Don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
- Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
- Husbands and wives : don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Co 7:5)
- Bear one another's burden (Ga 5:2)
- Speak truth to one another (Eph 4:25)
- Don't lie to one another (Col 3:9)
- Comfort one another (1 Th 4:18)
- Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
- Pray for one another (Ja 5:16)
- Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)
- Teach and admonish one another with songs, hymns and spiritual songs (Col 3:16)

If there is a breakdown in relationships within the church, it's because we didn't follow these "one-another" commands.

But you might say to me, there are so many of these one another commands, how can I even remember them?

There's a shortcut:

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

And that's what we are going to talk about by God's grace, next week.

But by God's grace, let me finish this with a story

Story : There was this rich young man who felt that his life was empty and had no meaning. He approached several people for advise. Some of them said that he can use meditation. Others said, travel more. It didn't work. Others said to him that to use his money to buy new things...it didn't work. So this young man went to church and met the pastor and he told him how his life was empty and he wasn't happy. The pastor saw one of the church members and called her over.

He told the rich young man that this old lady was happy and asked her to explain how she had found that happiness.

The old lady put down her broom and sat on a chair and told her story:

"Well, some time back, my husband died of malaria and three months later my only son was killed by a car. I was devastated. I had nobody... I had nothing left... I could not sleep... I could not eat and I never smiled at anyone. I even thought of taking my own life."

Then one evening a little kitten followed me home from work. Somehow I felt sorry for that kitten. It was cold outside, so I decided to let the kitten in and I got it some milk. It licked the plate clean. Then it purred and rubbed against my leg, and for the first time in months, I smiled.

Then I stopped to think. If helping a little kitten could make me smile, maybe helping people could make me happy. So the next day I baked some biscuits and took them to a neighbour who was sick in bed. And every day after that I tried to do something nice for someone. It made me so happy to see them happy. Today, I don't know of anybody who sleeps and eats better than I do. **I've found happiness, by giving it to others."**

I've always mentioned to my children, and I hope they remember this.

If you want to be miserable, think only about yourself. But if you want to have J.O.Y. in your life, this is how you should prioritize your thinking and your life.

Remember, Philippians is dubbed the book of JOY... and what is joy.

J -esus O -thers Y -ou

God bless you all.

S.G.D.