

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.

Today, we're in Part 4 of the Christian Mindset within the church based on Philippians 2:1-11,

We've already done Strive for 1. UNITY, Treat each other with 2. HUMILITY

By God's grace, today we'll start with

Serve one another 3. SACRIFICIALLY

We won't be able to finish this because today by God's grace, we will appoint the elders and then do the Lord's Table

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)

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.

2. Treat each other with HUMILITY.

Here's how we practice humility : 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.

A person who is others-focused, forgets one-self.

And based on the text, **we value others by treating them more important than us and by taking a real interest in who they are and their needs.**

And as I said earlier, we can only treat each other with humility if we

3. Serve one another SACRIFICIALLY.

Verses 5-8 shows that as part of the church, we need to serve one another SACRIFICIALLY.

You may ask, what does it mean to serve one another SACRIFICIALLY? What does the word “sacrifice” entail?

2 Samuel 24: 24 But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

Quote : To serve others sacrificially, **it needs to cost us something!**
Whether it’s our time, our talent, our treasure.

Our Lord expects us to serve others sacrificially because that’s what He did.

Let’s look at the verse :

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

I love the original Greek in this. It literally translates to this.

Anglicized : Touto phroneite en hymin ho kai en Christ Jesus »
“This think in you which also in Christ Jesus.”

It means, “How we think should be the same on how the Jesus Christ thinks.” That’s why other translations, say, “

Philippians 2:5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. (NLT)

In short, these should be our mindset! A SACRIFICIAL MINDSET!

And you know what is one of the thing that hurts when you give up something for the sake of unity... It hurts our pride... that’s why AGAIN, HUMILITY IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT TO UNITY.

To continue....

**So what was the Sacrificial Mindset of our Lord Jesus Christ?
HOW DID OUR LORD SHOW IT?**

- **He sacrificed His own STATUS**
- **He sacrificed His own SELF.**

Let’s talk about status :

Story : A wealthy young man was driving down the highway in his brand new Aston Martin, enjoying the open road and the music. Carelessly, he was driving with his arm hanging out the window, totally unaware of the beat-up jalopy in the lane next to him until it suddenly swerved and sideswiped his vehicle.

The crash was violent. The young man's sports car was reduced to twisted metal, and in the impact, his arm was severed from his body.

Moments later, a police officer rushed over to the scene, horrified by the carnage. "My car!" the young man cried out in anguish, "My beautiful car!"

"Forget the car," the officer replied urgently, trying to apply a tourniquet. "You need an ambulance immediately! You lost your entire left arm.

Looking down, the young man finally noticed his missing limb. His face turned pale, but instead of panicking about the blood loss or the trauma, he let out a hysterical sob.

"Oh no!" he wailed, "My Rolex watch! My beautiful Rolex!"

Application: A lot of people are concerned about what they have in life because they are so concerned about their status.

Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed His status.

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.

Now notice, by God's grace, I did not mention "identity". I mentioned the word "status"

Let me define it for us.

Identity is who you are. Example : My name is Brad Pitt. Born on June 7, 1990.

Status is your current state, condition or position in life.

Example (show phot) There are legal forms where there's a line that asks your "marital" status: It's either you check, "Single, Married, Divorced, Separated, Widowed"

Note : Your status can change but your identity does not change.

Connect now the two examples :

- 10 years ago, my name is Brad Pitt, born on June 7, 1990 and my status was single.
- But now, my name is still Brad Pitt, still was born on June 7, 1990 but my status is now married.

Here's the problem with a lot of people. We connect our status with our identity. They have connected who they are with things that are changing – their wealth, their relationships, their position in life, their health and even their looks when they age.

Illustration: This is a true story. When we landed in Canada in 2006, we used to live near Westdale Mall in Mississauga for 2 years. One time, after living in Brampton for many years, we decided to visit Westdale mall for nostalgia. I had to answer nature's call so I decided to go to the washroom. The washroom in Westdale mall goes into a narrow hall where there are closed doors and kind of creepy. When I came out of the washroom, as I was walking this hall, a Filipino middle-aged man who was standing at a door suddenly asked me a question. He must have recognized, I'm Filipino and so spoke in our language. But he asked this question in Tagalog, "Pre, pre, hulaan mo kung ilang taon na ako." (Buddy, buddy, guess how old am I?)

I found it very strange but in my mind he looked 65 but just to flatter him, I replied, “45?” And then he said, “No, I’m now 65” and a lot of people say, I still look young”

It was such a strange encounter but I guess he was connecting his identity on his looks.

That’s why when the status of people changes – non voluntary – they lose meaning in their life, they lose all joy and they become so confused or depressed and that’s what people call having an “identity crisis.”

Illustration : According to the National Institute of Health, up to 29% of retirees experience depression due to the sudden loss of identity, purpose and social structure and when you are forced to retire (stop working, non-voluntary), clinical depression goes up from 30% to up to 70%

Sources:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7551681/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8021097/>

Now, by the way, brothers and sisters, as Christians, we never lose our identity. (Remember, identity is who you are.)

When we are saved, our identity remains forever. Because of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **our identity is that we are a child of God.**

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

That’s why our Lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples how to pray and what is the first thing He said,

Matthew 6:9, “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven,”

It means our IDENTITY IS CONNECTED WITH OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN and that will never ever change. That’s why Christianity is not a religion to be performed... IT’S A RELATIONSHIP TO BE NOURISHED.

That’s the reason we go to church...not because it’s something we have to “perform”. It’s because we are nourishing our relationship with our Father in Heaven... we want to know Him more and to know Him more, we fall in love with Him more.

Important Application : That’s why no matter what happens in our status in life – you get separated, you lose your health, you lose relationships, you age, you lose your job, you lose your wealth, and some people, lose their memory, there is one thing you will never lose,

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD and He will always take care of you and we will be with Him forever and then everything will be restored!

Now, you may ask, why I have to go this length to explain to you the difference between Status and Identity.

It's because when Jesus became man, He never gave up, nor lost His identity. When He became man... He was still FULLY GOD! When He was on earth, He wasn't Half-God or Half man. Our Lord Jesus Christ is FULLY GOD and FULLY MAN!

*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.*

The theological term for that is Hypostatic Union. I want us to be clear on this.

Now, by God's grace, let's break down the passage: Oh Holy Spirit...help please.

- **Original Status :** *Who, **being in very nature God,***

Etymology: in the form (KJV) “morphe” used only 3x in the Bible.... External appearance From “meros”, a part that constitutes the whole.

Note : But since God is spirit (John 4:24), how do we know he is God, what are parts of him we “see” to know He is God.

What are the attributes exclusive to God? This mean, you can only attribute this to God. (Listen carefully on this)

Sovereign (total control of everything)

Omnipresence (He is present everywhere)

Omnipotence: (All-powerful)

Omniscience : (All knowing – knows everything)

Eternal : (was never born and never dies)

So how did our Lord sacrifice His Status?

By God's grace, we need to understand this first THEOLOGICALLY so we will see the great significance of this.

- **The Process**

*6 Who, **being in very nature God,**
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

KJV version :

Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

ESV version:

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

Etymology: “harpagmos” to seize, to grab, to hold on to” (root word : haireo – to choose)...

You see this amazing attitude of our Lord Jesus Christ... it’s not something that He has to hold on to...

Application : He did not “hold on” to His status. And that’s when you know a person has pride. They hold on to their “status”, their position, their power as something, when taken away from them, they complain, they go into a corner and sulk...as if they were “robbed” when the KJV again mentioned Jesus , *thought it not robbery*

WHAT DID OUR LORD JESUS DO? This must be our attitude.

*7 rather, he **made himself** nothing*

Etymology : himself (heauton) nothing (ekenosen)

Note : This means, this is a voluntary thing “**made himself**”

KJV version

*7 but made Himself **of no reputation***

ESV version

*7 but **emptied** Himself.*

Etymology: nothing, of no reputation, emptied, kenao, from kenos, where we get the theological term “kenosis”

Now, this is beyond comprehension with our finite mind. But let’s try to get a glimpse of it.

Kenosis means, that though He is fully God Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ “kenoo”, emptied Himself, made Himself of no reputation, made Himself nothing which means, He sacrificed His own will to God,

Remember earlier what are the attributes (the morphe) that makes Him God.

Sovereign, Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Eternal

And then what happened ?

- **Added status**

*by **taking the very nature of a servant**,
being made in human likeness.*

He took the form of a servant.

Etymology : servant “doulos” slave..one who disregards his own interests...

That’s why Jesus said, THOUGH HE WAS GOD...KING

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

Important to Remember : While Jesus was here, He was still fully God... sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent. And we see glimpses of that in the Bible.

Examples:

- When He commanded the waters to be still just by His Word.

“Quiet! Be still!” Mark 4:39, (Omnipotent)

- He saw Nathanael under the fig tree even before they met physically (John 1:46-50) (Omnipresent and Omniscience)
- He said to the Pharisees in *John 8:58 “Before Abraham was, I am*

And yet He voluntarily surrendered His Sovereignty, His Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence.

John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work'

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing,

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

And also

being made in human likeness

Listen to this : The God who is omnipresent (everywhere, everytime) and eternal (was never born and never dies) voluntarily limited himself and became man (who is not present everywhere and everytime) and now He was born (being made) and can now die?

Remember, Jesus had all glory and was present face to face with the Father in heaven. That’s why one of His prayers in John 17 is this knowing now that He is at the culmination of His purpose here on earth.

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began

AND YET, He voluntarily “emptied himself”, made himself nothing from someone who is SOVEREIGN AND ETERNAL TO SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN AND WHO DIED...even death on a cross.

Why???? We'll answer that next time by God's grace.

But let me give you a glimpse:

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

IMPORTANT!!! Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is sovereign, all knowing, all powerful, all present and eternal voluntarily gave it up to die on the cross so that you WHO IS A SINNER deserving of punishment can become A CHILD OF GOD!!!!

QUOTE: Our Lord Jesus Christ SACRIFICED HIS STATUS in order for us to have a NEW IDENTITY!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

What is that new identity? – The Holy Spirit is now in you.
From sinner to saint, From servant to His friend. From God's enemy to CHILD OF GOD.

That's why A CHRISTIAN, does not have to worry... A Christian is full of joy... because of Jesus Christ as a friend, we have GOD AS OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN!

Quote : "What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father." - J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

And that is what Paul is saying, when he said,

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

Application: Our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed His own status, His own position, His power, His own will completely under the will of the Father in order to become a slave.

And a lot of us wants to impose our own power, our own will, our own agenda, thinking we are better than others, thinking what we have is better than others to other people.
And sometimes, we even see that in church.

That's why when I hear that in some churches, there's a power struggle....What? Power struggle? Didn't our Lord commanded us

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Why? THAT'S WHAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DID!!!

That's why our Lord Jesus Christ said,

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you must be a servant.

Mark 10:43-45 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Note : I remember when I said to Kuya Vir that he will be one of the elders, his first reaction was, "Really?" and then followed it up, "Hanggang makakapag-serve, I will serve." (As long as I can still serve, I will serve).

Again, in order to serve sacrificially, it means just like Christ we need to sacrifice our status. It doesn't matter if you're a CEO outside in the world, or a President of this and that, in this church, or you're a leader of this and that... WE ARE ALL SERVANTS...BOND SLAVES.

Story: I remember the story of my father-in-law. He was a chairman of the board of several companies and organization before he became a Christian. When he was newly born-again, he wanted to be used in the church. So he asked, one of the leaders in the community on how he can serve. So that leader asked him what he did before and he boastfully said to him that he was a chairman of several companies and foundations. The leader replied. "Oh that's nice, we can use you because we need some help. Come this Sunday, be earlier than others because I will make you a chairman." So my father-in-law came earlier the following Sunday, dressed nicely because he will be made a chairman. So the leader saw him, and my father-in-law thinking that he will be assigned a position of leadership, pointed to the stack of chairs at the side of the church and asked him to arrange the chairs to prepare it for the worship service and there were a lot of chairs.. Now he understood what the leader said that he will make him a chair man. And my father-in-law arranged all those chairs nicely and excellently so that the people are able to praise and worship God.

And this should be our mindset, we serve each other sacrificially by sacrificing first our own status in order to become a servant just like what our Lord Jesus Christ did.

*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,*

S.G.D.