

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.*

I heard there were a lot who took a vacation on the long weekend. Praise God. I hope you got refreshed.

To those who were here, praise the Lord for keeping things moving. My wife and I joined through livestream.

Speaking of London, by God's grace, we attended the church where Charles Spurgeon used to preach for 30 years. People were still formal suits and dresses while attending the church and they still sung hymns with an organ accompanying them. The pastor preached on the same book we are in .

- **Present the timeline first again**

We'll announce the elders after the sermon.

Today, most of the churches are going to preach on the Holy Spirit because it's Pentecost Sunday. But I Ptr. Roy preached a solid sermon on the Holy Spirit the previous Sunday and I praise God for that.

By the way again, original Pentecost celebration is a Jewish celebration. I mentioned this already before in one of my sermons to you by God's grace. It's celebrated on the "fiftieth" day (thus, Penta) after the Passover where Jewish people travel to Jerusalem to offer their "first fruits" at the Temple.

God in His perfect timing, God sent the Holy Spirit to the first Christians then and the church was born making them, the "first fruits" of our Lord Jesus' Christ's death and resurrection.

That's why there were many people in Jerusalem at that time on the first sermon of Peter and more than 5000 became believers (added to the church).

Note : By the way, I don't know where this notion comes from that the amount of people attending church is a measure of the success of the church. God uses a church whether it's 10 people or a 5000 people. Charles Spurgeon got saved at 15 years old when he was trying to seek shelter from a snow storm. It was a small church, almost empty and the pastor wasn't even there on that day because he got snowed in. So the story goes that a humble, uneducated shoemaker or tailor stepped up to the pulpit and preached directly from Isaiah 45:22.

Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."

The turning point was when that man pointed directly to a miserable-looking Spurgeon and said to him.

"Young man, look to Jesus Christ! Look! Look! You have nothing to but look and live!" And on that day, Spurgeon believed in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

(Show photo) Those words in Isaiah 45:22 was placed as a tribute to Spurgeon, 6 years after his death in 1892.

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

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

Let us remember that these are interconnected based on how Paul wrote it.

What do I mean by this?

Yes, 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.

Today, we'll talk about Humility. (Pray first)

On a flight from Johannesburg, a middle-aged, well-off white South African lady had found herself sitting next to an African man. She called the cabin crew attendant over to complain about her seating. “What seems to be the problem Madam?” asked the attendant.

“Can’t you see?” she said. “You’ve sat me next to a kaffir. I can’t possibly sit next to this disgusting human. Find me another seat!” “Please calm down Madam.” the stewardess replied. “The flight is very full today, but I’ll tell you what I’ll do. I’ll go and check to see if we have any seats available in club or first class.” The woman cocked a snooty look at the outraged black man beside her (not to mention at many of the surrounding passengers also).

A few minutes later the stewardess returned with the good news, which she delivered to the lady, who could not help but look at the people around her with a smug and self-satisfied grin: “Madam, unfortunately, as I suspected, economy is full. I’ve spoken to the cabin services director, and club is also full. However, we do have one seat in first class”. Before the lady had a chance to answer, the stewardess continued, “It is most extraordinary to make this kind of upgrade, however, and I had to get special permission from the captain. But, given the circumstances, the captain felt that it was outrageous that someone be forced to sit next to such an obnoxious person as yourself.” With which, she turned to the African man sitting next to her, and said: “So if you’d like to get your things, Sir, I have your seat ready for you in first class up at the front...”

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.

You know 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.

This brings us now to the second part:

2. Treat each other with HUMILITY.

How do we practice humility?

Humor : Before anything else, there's one thing I discovered about myself, "I am a humble person."

Note : If a person thinks he is humble, then he is not humble at all.

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.

Today, we'll only talk about forgetting one's 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 creating intrigue in order to push their own agenda.

Illustration: You see that definitely in politics. People going to other people in the party campaigning to push their own agenda. You think that only happens in politics. It also happens in church.

The early church is not immune to that. Remember the Corinthian church?

1 Corinthians 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

We have a term in Tagalog – maraming bulung-bulungan.

That's why KJV translates it to "strife" or "contention".

Beloved of Christ, this does not come from the Spirit of God, it comes self, ego, or the flesh.

*Galatians 5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, **selfish ambition** (same word eritheia), **dissensions, factions***

Do you know why people push their own agenda? It's because they think that their agenda and ideas are the best and are right.

We should only be pushing one agenda – the Lord's agenda found in God's Word.

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.

Remember, there's only one name that should be lifted up or glorified! That's Jesus Christ!

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

That's why I love it when I talk to Christians and you praise them for what they did or what they got, they say, "By God's grace" or "To God be the glory" or "Praise God!"

Illustration: One time I was talking to a rich man and he was saying to me (lifting himself up or glorifying himself), "You know what Pastor, I'm a self-made man." Really?
The Bible is very clear that everything that we have comes from God.

Deuteronomy 8:10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth,

Remember, all this lifting up of one's self, IT'S ALL EMPTY...VAIN CONCEIT.
Why? It's the Lord who gave it and as Job knows,

Job 1:21 “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

That’s why when we boast

1 Corinthians 1:31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Any kind of boasting that doesn’t recognize or point out the Lord IS BEING CONCEITED!

Biblical Illustration: Remember Satan? Look at how the Bible describes him

*Ezekiel 28: 12... “**You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.***

*13 You were in Eden,
the garden of God;
every precious stone adorned you:
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,
topaz, onyx and jasper,
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.
Your settings and mountings were made of gold;
on the day you were created they were prepared.
14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.*

Here’s Satan created by the Most High God to be the seal of perfection and beautiful...having everything...until...

*15 You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.*

What was the wickedness found in Satan?

*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.*

The wickedness that was found in his heart was PRIDE! It's about "I", "I", "I"...Ay, ano ba yan?

Let's see how C.S. Lewis described Pride as the utmost evil.

"The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility...According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." - C.S. Lewis

This is why as we taught last time... Division in the church comes from the devil because IF HUMILITY IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT TO UNITY, THE ROOT OF DIVISION IS PRIDE!

So if you want God to be against you, be prideful.

James 4:6 That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

We have to remember, it is our Lord Jesus Christ who built the church – something beautiful and Satan wants to destroy it by causing division and his main arsenal is pride.

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.

What is the first antidote to pride?

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.

The first antidote is to admit that we have pride.

Admit.... The word "confess" (homologeō)... means to agree with God and say, "Lord, I admit, I was hurt because nasaktan yung pride ko"

Examples :

We get offended because of pride.

We get envious or jealous because of pride.

We get boastful (mayabang) because of pride.

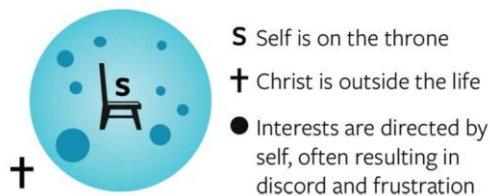
We play victim because of pride (We have term for that “api” syndrome or victim mentality).

Why? It's because pride touches the heart of sin – SELF!!!

Remember, this basic illustration when we got saved?

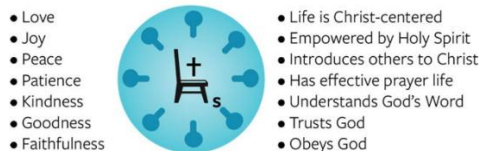
Before we got saved. At the throne of our heart is self.

Self-Directed Life



After we got saved. Christ is now at the throne of our lives.

Christ-Directed Life



That's why our Lord Jesus Christ said,

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Etymology: deny “aparneomai” to have no connection with someone (apo) separate (arneomai) reject – same word when Peter denied Christ “I don’t know him”

In short, forget self : we don’t know him. That’s why the constant theme of the Bible is the Old life vs the New life.

Example : Before M.U. ako “matampuhing unggoy” , now to deny one’s self -to forget one’s self is saying, “I don’t know that guy already.” Why? It’s because JESUS IS ALREADY MY LORD AND SAVIOUR...HE’S AT THE THRONE OF MY HEART. HE’S ALREADY IN TOTAL CONTROL.

Context : “*take up their cross*” – this means, you are on your way to death because people those days when they see someone “carrying the cross”, it means they are on their way to be die.

“Just kill me” Story : I always remind myself of this whenever I am undergoing problems. 20++ years ago, (I was already a pastor then) God allowed some problems in our life. You know those kinds of problems that come one after the other. We lost our house. We only had a car with the two kids in tow. Someone was after me and was even talking about hiring someone to kill me. We didn’t know where to go so we had to go back to my mom and dad. While we were there, Rebecca went on a metal swing, jumped and hit her forehead. I just saw Zak, shouting that someone happened to Bexy and saw my father carrying her with blood all over her face. We had to go to the hospital and while in the hospital, someone was still harassing us over text. This all happened in 24-48 hours. After Bexy got her “staples” in the forehead. I was so exhausted. They carried her inside the house and I was left in the car. After everyone was out, I got out of the car and pointed my fingers to God and said, “Lord, anong ginagawa mo? Patayin mo na lang ako.” (Lord, what are you doing? Just kill me.) And deep within my heart, you know that time when you hear God whispers clearly to you heart. He said this to me, “That’s exactly what I’m doing.”

That’s why when we are undergoing trials and sufferings in our lives...that’s exactly what God is doing.... HUMBLING US... making sure that He is on the throne of our hearts, TOTALLY IN CONTROL and that’s when PEACE BEYOND understanding sets in.

That’s why this is the prayer of the saints and it comes in different variations. But I like how someone wrote it this way.

Prayer : “Lord, teach me to humble myself, lest you be the one to humble me.”

Next week, we’ll talk about how we’re going to treat others in humility.

VALUE OTHERS

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

We will discuss this next week.

Introduce the new board of elders **and share the story of the same reactions** when I talked with them individually

Note : By God’s grace, after much thought, talking to our Lord, fasting and guidance from His Word, the elders have been chosen. We have to remember, we are not looking for “perfection in their lives” in the criteria set in the Bible in the letters to Timothy and Titus by Paul and in the letter of Peter but the “direction of their lives.” Again, not perfection but direction.

The main responsibility of the elders is to set the direction of the church based on two things : God’s Word and prayer

They will also be the ones to appoint the deacons based on the Word of God, prayer and consultation with the church which needs to be done by June 28.

They will also be the ones to represent this church legally.

Here are the **new board of elders in alphabetical order.** Eight were chosen. If you are here, please stand up.

Antonio Frias
Jerry Borillo
Melchor Frias
Noel Gallora
Roger Malunes
Saldy Latosa
Sebastian Pinnavaria
Vir Raras

Now the work begins by God's grace and with His power after they have been appointed on June 7.

PRAISE THE LORD! GLORY TO GOD!

S.G.D.