

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.

PRAY FOR THE GRADUATES

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

Let me share to you a Latin quote:

Quote : Repetitio est mater studiorum (Repetition is the mother of learning)

For weeks, by God's grace, we have been reading, hearing, studying and meditating on this passage. This is an excellent thing.

Illustration: I remember the story that Kobe Bryant is already at the gym at 4 a.m. and takes 200 of the same shot he's been practicing.

That's why he is an excellent basketball player. That's basketball.

If Kobe can be excellent in basketball, **all the more we should be excellent our relationship with one another.**

**We Strive for 1. UNITY, Treat each other with 2. HUMILITY
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)

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.

But how can we be united? Remember, these 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.”

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:

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

When it comes to having a sacrificial mindset, do not be like this man.

Illustration : Two friends met for dinner at a restaurant. They both ordered porkchops. After a few minutes, the waiter came back with two pieces of porkchop on one plate. The two porkchops were of a different sizes – one was smaller than the other. So the friend, got the plate, got the bigger porkchop for himself and left the smaller porkchop for his friend. So the friend who got the smaller porkchop exclaimed, “You certainly have the nerve.”

So the one who got the bigger porkchop said, “Why is this troubling you?” Of course, the friend who got the smaller porkchop pointed out, “You got the bigger porkchop immediately and you left me with the smaller porkchop.” So the friend who got the bigger porkchop asked, “Okay, how would you have done it?” “Well,” answered the friend who got the smaller porkchop, “I would have given you the bigger porkchop.” Then the friend who got the bigger porkchop replied, “I already got the bigger porkchop, haven't I.”

Yes, it's a humorous story but if you think about it, that's abusing the goodness or generosity of his friend.

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.**

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.

Remember last time, by God's grace, I did not mention “identity”. I mentioned the word “status”

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

**That's why we have the word "status quo", (the state in which)...it's the current state.
AND OUR STATUS CAN CHANGE.**

- **Identity is "who we are" intrinsically.**

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

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."

**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.

What is our identity?

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 – we get separated, we lose our health, we lose our friends, we lose our job, we lose our wealth, and some people, we lose our 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, we 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;*

But He sacrificed His Status.

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

And we studied this in detail last time.

Later, by God's grace, we'll get a glimpse of how this was played out.

Which bring us on how our Lord

- **He sacrificed His own SELF.**

*8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Let's break this down by God's grace.

And being found in appearance as a man

Etymology : **schemati Anthropos (schema)** schematic... his design,his form is anthropos... (where we get the word anthropology – the study of human)...

It was just being emphasized here... that our Lord HE IS FULLY GOD...HE IS ALSO FULLY HUMAN...with all the features of human, can taste, can smell, can see how we see...all the limitations of man, can get hurt physically, mentally and emotionally and can get tempted too but never sinned... that's why when we pray to Him, we know He understands what we're going through and He has compassion over us.

Hebrews 4: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

he humbled himself

Etymology : humbled “tapai-na-o” tapeinoo (to lower one's self)

Remember again, *in our relationship with one another, we should have the same mindset of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- **We sacrifice ourself by lowering our self to others**

Again humility, that's how we achieve unity.

You will notice that people who lower themselves are the ones who are secure in themselves.

Illustration: One time at work in the Philippines, we were doing a TV commercial but we were doing a focus-group discussion and we wanted someone whose demographics are Class A because that's the target market. When we think of Class A people, we immediately think of them as those who are rich financially. So the researcher in our company brought the Class A people. We were in another room listening to the discussion. When they came in, they were wearing branded shirts with Gucci belts and gold chains and then when the discussion started, they were almost boasting of what they have. Our creative director during that time said, “These are not Class A people.” The researcher said, “I vetted them, they are earning this much money in a year.” Then our creative director said, “They might be rich but they don't have the mindset of a rich person.” He was saying, their demographics was Class A but their psychographics wasn't Class A. And true enough, upon digging deeper on the people the researcher brought in, the “rich” people that he brought in had that kind of money because one of them just got home from abroad, the other one just became rich, the other one just came home from the Middle east during that time and all of them were trying to prove that they were truly “Class A”. So in the next session, they brought in who were really millionaires for a very long time already and the attitude was different.

Application: The reason why I'm saying this is because Christians are Class A, our identity is in Christ. We are a child of God... and that's the reason why we can lower ourselves (humble ourselves, change our status) to one another and be a servant to others because we will never lose our identity – God's child.

Think about this. It's because only someone who is really in a high position can lower themselves. Only those who think of themselves low will try to put themselves in a high position or hold on to their position.

Do you know how high our position is in the heavenly realm? Right now, the Bible says in Psalms, that we were created a “little” lower than the angels. (Psalm 8:5).

Psalm 8:5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

But in the future, the Bible says, we will “reign” with Jesus Christ and we will even judge angels. (the fallen ones)

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

That’s our identity, and only those who are higher can make themselves lower...can humble themselves.

How do else do we sacrifice our self?

- **We sacrifice ourselves by giving up our own will.**

*by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

This means, we have the mindset of someone who says, “It’s not what I want that I follow. It’s what God wants.” “It’s not what I want, it’s what’s good for the people around me.”

To sacrifice our self means to give up our own will, give our own time, give our own treasure, our own talents to serve God and our brothers and sisters.

Again, what did our Lord say?

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Here’s the thing, when God wants you to serve Him and others, one thing is for sure, He will break you. It’s because He cannot use a man who has a proud heart. He can only use someone who has a servant’s heart.

In which Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his book, “The Cost of Discipleship”

Quote : “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”

Early in my ministry, one of the things that stuck in my mind is this quote from Chuck Swindoll

Quote : “When God wants to do an impossible task, He takes an impossible person and crushes him.”

Biblical Illustration: Joseph, he knew he was going to be a ruler but you know the rest of the story. He got sold by his own brothers at 17 years old, then accused wrongly even though he obeyed God and only at 30 years old, did he become prime minister of Egypt because God will use him to preserve Israel.

Now, by God's grace, let me illustrate to you how our Lord did it.

And this will show you the depth of His love for us.

Most of us are familiar with Isaiah 6. Let's read it.

Isaiah 6: 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Remember, this is very God Himself who is

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;

He is *holy, holy, holy...*

That's why when God saw the manifestation of **God's presence through the Burning Bush**, God said to Him.

Exodus 3: 5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

He's the same God who said to Moses

Exodus 33:20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." (NLT)

Remember the angels also said He is the Lord Almighty.

How can we get a glimpse of His might and power.?

Through the powerful creatures, a gazillion of angels to serve Him. He lives in the heavenly realms and that is where His throne is and flashes of lightning, rumbling, and peals of thunder are seen and heard. And the splendor of heaven is nothing you will ever, ever see here on earth.

You can read them in Ezekiel 1

Video: Here's a rendering video of the angels that Ezekiel, Isaiah saw.

Imagine, seeing this face to face... if the angels look mighty and powerful...WHAT MORE WHO GOD IS.

Remember, God sent one angel before to the Assyrians 2 Kings 19 and killed 185,000 people...only one angel.

Now let's look back at Isaiah 6. Remember after, Isaiah saw the angels, he said, *"Woe to me for I am a man of unclean lips."*

Then, the angels touched his lips with a live coal and said that his guilt is taken away and *Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

What did the Lord say? You have to focus here.

9 He said, "Go and tell this people:

*"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving."*

*10 Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.*

***Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."***

Now look at this, fast forward to John 12, our Lord was performing so many signs and miracles in their presence and yet they did not believe Him....Here's what John wrote :

John 12: 39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

*40 "He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.*

John was paraphrasing the Lord's word in Isaiah 6.

But now look at verse 41...

*41 Isaiah said this **because he saw Jesus' glory** and spoke about him.*

Look at this, THE GOD WHO IS ON THE MAJESTIC THRONE WHO IS SURROUNDED BY POWERFUL ANGELS CRYING OUT HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY is OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST...

But by God's grace, why did I go to this length to show you this? BECAUSE HERE LIES REALLY THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD.

The ALL-POWERFUL GOD came to this earth to become man, born of a virgin and became a baby (dependent on other people to take care of Him), grew up and looked at what the people did to Him.

Matthew 27: 27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him.

Remember, these words again...

*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.*

He being in very nature God became man and beaten, mocked and spat on like a lowly servant... like someone who is nothing! THEY WOULDN'T DO THAT TO A KING BUT GOD ALLOWED IT TO...

THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD IS IN HIS HUMILITY!!! Isn't that what He said,

*Matthew 11: 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and humble** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

The Bible said, in our relationship with one another, we should have the same mindset of Christ... a humble, servant mindset.

How humble is the Lord?

And after they did this to Him, what did they do?

"They led him out to crucify Him." (Mark 15:20; Matthew 27:31)

*8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Imagine this, the God of the universe who is Holy, Holy, Holy and Almighty, who we cannot approach has approached us and we can even embrace Him.

- The God when we look at His face, we will surely die got slapped in the face

- The God who is worshipped and served by powerful angels got spit upon and mocked.
- The God who is eternal and cannot die who is full of glory and honor, died on the cross which was reserved for criminals and the most painful and most shameful way to execute a man.

WHY WOULD THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE DO THIS???

For only one reason...LOVE!!!!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Illustration: One time I was at the barber shop and there was this poster of Jesus hand with the nail on the cross and there was a quote in that poster that stuck with me that says,

Quote : “It wasn’t the nails that kept Him there, it was love.”

In conclusion, what our Lord is saying, when it comes to our relationship with one another.

John 13: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

All of this unity, humility and sacrifice can be summed up by one word, LOVE!!!

And you know what the result is? OUR LORD IS GLORIFIED IN OUR MIDST.

*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.*

As promised by God’s grace, we will announce to you the deacons that were called and chosen. Remember, deacon means diakonos, which literally means “waiter”...what’s the Japanese for waiter, “otosan”...LOL

Please remember, all of us are called to serve, they are not your leaders, they are your servants. (Off-topic, I don’t know why some Christians are so obsessed with the term “leadership”, when we are supposed to be all “servants”...God, called Moses “my servant”... not “my leader”..., there is only one leader in this church... our Lord Jesus Christ and we are all His servants AND WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE OUR LORD AND KING)

Here are the deacons.

Missions Ministry : Weng Latosa
Men's Ministry : Lito Pantolan
Women's Ministry and Administration : Liza Santos
Youth and Young Adults Ministry : Kate Amida
Children's Ministry : Amie Frias
Worship Ministry : Tsidkenu Aznar
Media Ministry : Aeyrhha Bangunan
Communications Ministry : Vicky Caballero
Hospitality Ministry : Shirley Pannavaria (ushers, follow-ups, connections)
Discipleship Ministry : Sebastian Pannavaria (bible studies, seminars, counseling)
Finance and Admin : Arlene Dominguez

S.G.D.