

Imitate Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

July 2, 2023

Thus far:

June 11th – He Will Finish the Work – Philippians 1:1-11

June 18th – God’s Will Prevails – Philippians 1:12-18

June 25th – Stand Firm and Rejoice – Philippians 1:19-30

July 2nd – Imitate Christ – Philippians 2:1-11

Next Week:

July 9th – Don’t Complain – Philippians 2:12-18

2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 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, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, 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. 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.

Philippians 2:1-11

What is “therefore” there for?

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Philippians 1:19-30

What “therefore” is there for?

For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

Conduct be worthy of the calling of Christ.

1 Spirit, 1 Mind

Don’t be scared

Expect struggles and suffering.

I owe it to myself to be happy.

So Paul is telling the Church at Philippi that he is being persecuted for his faith, that he needs the Church to conduct itself worthy of the calling as believers, and in doing so have one mind and spirit, not being afraid and yet to expect the struggles and difficulties. In other words, it’s not just about them.

William Booth founded the Salvation Army. He was getting up in age and he was a little feeble. They were having a grand convention. They said it would be wonderful if William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, could come. He couldn’t come. They said, “Well, send us a letter.” He wasn’t able to do that. “Send us a telegram.” He sent a one-word telegram. Do you know what was on it? One word: “Others.”—“Others.” That’s what it’s all about: others. It’s not about you; it’s about God; and therefore, through God, it is about other people.¹

Paul uses our passage today to tell the Church at Philippi what they need to do moving forward. The same is true for us as God’s Church.

1) Continue in joy

Paul didn’t say make me have joy by doing these things or that he will eventually have joy if they do them, but that he has it already and to “fulfill” his joy by doing that which he is going to mention.

¹ Adrian Rogers

The Greek word for *joy* is *chara*. Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God, whether promised or fulfilled. Joy expresses God's kingdom—His influence on earth ([Romans 14:17](#)). The Spirit's production of joy can manifest in several different ways:

**The joy of deliverance.
The joy of salvation.**

**The joy of spiritual maturity.
The joy of God's presence.**

The Greek *chara* is closely related to [charis](#), which means "grace" or "a gift." *Chara* is the normal response to *charis*—we have joy because of God's grace. The next step in the progression is to allow our joy to become an action as we express it, although sometimes joy can be so great it is inexpressible ([1 Peter 1:8](#)). Possessing joy is a choice. We choose whether to value God's presence, promises, and work in our lives. When we yield to the Spirit, He opens our eyes to God's grace around us and fills us with joy ([Romans 15:13](#)). Joy is not to be found in a fallen world; it is only fellowship with God that can make our joy complete ([1 John 1:4](#)).²

2) Oneness

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

Like minded – one mind

phronéō: to have understanding, to think. The part of speech is a verb, an action.

5426 *phronéō* (from [5424](#) /*phrén*, "the midriff or diaphragm; the parts around the heart," J. Thayer) – properly, regulate (moderate) from within, as inner-perspective (*insight*) shows itself in corresponding, outward behavior. [5426](#) (*phronéō*) essentially equates to *personal opinion fleshing itself out in action* (see J. Thayer). This idea is difficult to translate into English because it combines the *visceral* and *cognitive* aspects of thinking.

Same love – AGAPE – this describes the love that Jesus had and has for us and we are to have for others. This can only be done if we have God's love.

One accord – together, moving in the same direction.

3) Selflessness (vs. 3-4)

You owe it to yourself
You deserve a break today
Have it your way
Find your true self
Find your truth

You can't look down on someone if you are washing feet.

After being converted, this is what Paul's life was all about. He was focused on getting the truth out to all that he could. It was not about him but about the Lord and others.

Look after other's interests as you look out for yours. It doesn't say we are not to look out for our interests but also for the interests of others!

There is a cruel despot that wants to rule over your life and keep you in bondage. He is, beyond the shadow of doubt, your worst enemy. And if you want to see more about him, then go look in the mirror. His name is Self—King Self. His throne is the human heart. His kingdom consists of three people: I, myself, and me. He comes from a dynasty. It began with Adam, and it continues on down to this present age. Self wants to rule in your heart. Now let me tell you something: ***When self is on the throne, Christ is on the cross; when Christ is on the throne, self is on the cross. There needs to be a crucifixion of King Self.***³

4) Crucify king/queen self (vs. 5-8)

Have the mind of Christ:

No reputation
Servant
Obedient (even to death)

5) In the end, our desire and goal as believers is to die to self and live to Christ Him (vs. 9-11)

Prayer Focus:

**Am I one with God's people?
Am I daily dying to self?
Am I living to Christ?**

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/fruit-Holy-Spirit-joy.html>

³ Ibid.