

NEW YEAR
WHAT WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE IN 2023
PART 1—BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR ATTITUDE!
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 (VS 5)

Introduction

Verse 5 says, “*Let this mind be in you which was also Christ Jesus.*”

Every BELIEVER should both DESIRE and STRIVE to BE MORE LIKE JESUS!

Romans 8:29 tells us that we who are SAVED have been predestinated to be CONFORMED to the IMAGE of the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

Colossians 3:1-4, tells us that we who are risen with CHRIST are to seek those things which are ABOVE and that we are to set our AFFECTION on things ABOVE, not on things on the earth. It also says that our life is hid with CHRIST IN GOD and goes on to tell us that CHRIST is our life!

1 John 3:2-3—“*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*”

Here in the book written to the PHILIPPIAN CHURCH, PAUL was exhorting them to see JESUS CHRIST as their example for LIVING their lives and to become more like JESUS, even in the midst of persecution! (The word “*therefore*” in *verse 1* refers back to *Philippians 1:27-30*)

I want us to see that these are some timeless truths that are not only intended for the CHURCH at PHILIPPI, but also for us as well!

In WHAT WAYS are we to be like JESUS? I want to deal with the first thing today as we look at the subject of “WHAT WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE IN 2023! PART 1—BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR ATTITUDE!”

Look at what Paul says here: (*Vs 1-2*)

I. “*If there be any consolation in Christ. . .*” (*Vs 1*)

The word translated “*CONSOLATION*” here is related to the word that the LORD JESUS CHRIST used when HE described the HOLY GHOST as “*COMFORTER*.”

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John 14:16—“*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”*
(“*Comforter*” is “*one called along side to aid or help or comfort.*”)

So, the word “*CONSOLATION*” means “*comfort, aid, or help to the alleviation of misery or distress of mind.*” So, what is the “*CONSOLATION IN CHRIST?*” I can think of a few things and I’m sure you can as well...

Hebrews 2:9—“*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*”
(I would call that a “*CONSOLATION IN CHRIST*”)

Hebrews 2:14-15—“*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*”
(I would call that a “*CONSOLATION IN CHRIST*” as well!)

Hebrews 2:18—“*For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*”
(“*SUCCOUR*” means “*to come to the aid of; to help.*”)

Romans 5:1-2—“*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*”
(ALL of that is a “*CONSOLATION IN CHRIST*”)

Look at *2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

So, is there any *CONSOLATION IN CHRIST?* Oh, yes there is!
There is **GREAT CONSOLATION IN CHRIST!**

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II. “. . .if any comfort of love. . .” (Vs 1)

Think of **THE LOVE OF CHRIST** for us? What kind of **LOVE** is that? Our English word "**LOVE**" at times has been both **DEGRADED and PERVERTED** being used for things that are **NOT LOVE** at all but rather could be described as nothing more than **SENSUAL LUST!**

That may be called **LOVE** and be referred to as **LOVE** by some, but it is nothing near what **TRUE LOVE** is! **TRUE LOVE** is expressed in the person of **CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR!**

The **LOVE OF CHRIST** is a **LOVE BEYOND** any other **LOVE!**
Romans 5:6-8—“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

The **LOVE OF CHRIST** is a **LOVE** that both sought and seeks our highest good without regard to **HIMSELF!**

Is there any COMFORT in this GREAT LOVE that CHRIST had for us? Of course there is!

John 15:12-13—“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

1 John 3:16—“16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

There is **GREAT COMFORT** found in the **LOVE THAT CHRIST BOTH HAD AND HAS** for us!

“If there be any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love...”

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III. “. . .if any fellowship of the Spirit. . .” (Vs 1)

The word "**FELLOWSHIP**" there means "*partnership.*"
Is there any **FELLOWSHIP** or **PARTNERING** of the **SPIRIT** in the lives of us who are **SAVED**? There most certainly is!

The moment we were **SAVED** the **HOLY SPIRIT** took up residence in our bodies to be our **PARTNER and HELPER!** How so?

A. HE PARTNERS With Us In Our ASSURANCE!
Romans 8:16—“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

The **SPIRIT OF GOD** uses the **WORD OF GOD** to bring about that **ASSURANCE!**

John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18—“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 John 5:11-13—“11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

B. HE PARTNERS With Us In Our SUFFERING and our PRAYER LIFE!
Romans 8:26—“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

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C. HE PARTNERS With Us In Our LEARNING!

John 14:26—“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**”

John 16:13—“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**”

1 Corinthians 2:12—“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; **that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**”

D. HE PARTNERS With Us In Our WITNESSING And Our SUFFERING!

Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The same **HOLY SPIRIT** that **EMPOWERED** and **ENCOURAGED** the **BELIEVERS** in the **BOOK OF ACTS**, is the same **HOLY SPIRIT** that **INDWELLS** us who are **BELIEVERS!**

E. HE PARTNERS With Us In Our MATURITY!

2 Corinthians 3:18—“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**”

So, is there any **FELLOWSHIP** or **PARTNERING** of the **SPIRIT** in the lives of us who are **SAVED?** There most certainly is!

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IV. “. . .if any bowels and mercies. . .” (Vs 1)
i.e. *Pity or sympathy; tenderness and compassion.*

What **PAUL** is referring to here is that if the **PHILIPPIANS** had any “**bowels and mercies**” toward him as the **MAN OF GOD**, they would be mindful of what he’s telling them.

I’m not saying this because I am a **MAN OF GOD**, but because the **WORD OF GOD** bears it out! There should be **GREAT LOVE** and **COMPASSION** for the **MAN OF GOD** by the **PEOPLE OF GOD** for what he is going through as the **MAN OF GOD** for them!

Not to the point that he is worshiped, mind you, but the **MAN OF GOD** is to be **RESPECTED** and **FOLLOWED** as he **FOLLOWS CHRIST!**

It is obvious from reading the book of **PHILIPPIANS** that these folks had **GREAT LOVE** and **COMPASSION** for **PAUL** and what he was going through as the **MAN OF GOD!**

(Cf. 4:10, 14-19) Look at *Galatians 4:11-16*

Hebrews 13:7—“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

Hebrews 13:17—“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Are there any **BOWELS** and **MERCIES** for the **MAN OF GOD?** Is there any **PITY** and **COMPASSION** for the burden he bears for you? There should be!

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IV. “Fulfil ye my joy. . .” (Vs 2)

The only way the **BELIEVERS** in **PHILIPPI** could **FULLFILL PAUL’S JOY** was for him to see four things in their lives (found here in *verse 2*) that should spring forth from the reality of the four things found in *verse 1*.

i.e. If the four things in *verse 1* were true (and they were), then Paul is saying **there were four specific things they should do in response**. And if they did, that would make **PAUL’S JOY COMPLETE!**

A. “. . .that ye be likeminded. . .”

What **MIND** is that **LIKEMINDEDNESS** suppose to be?
THE MIND OF CHRIST! (1 Corinthians 2:16)

How many **MINDS** does a normal body have? One!
And **CHRIST** is the **HEAD OF THE BODY**, the **CHURCH!**
(Colossians 1:18)

So, we are to have **HIS MIND** and be directed by **HIS MIND!**
Did you know that if we all had the **MIND OF CHRIST**
CONTINUALLY CONTROLLING US then there would be
PERFECT UNITY! There could be **NO DISCORD**,
SCHISM, CONTENTION or **STRIFE** in the **CHURCH**.
There would always be **JOYOUS HARMONY** in promoting
the **WORK OF THE CHURCH!**

B. “. . .having the same love. . .”

What **LOVE** is that **LOVE** suppose to be? **The LOVE OF CHRIST!**

John 13:34-35—“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

(1 John 4:7-12)

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C. “. . .being of one accord. . .”

i.e. Of one **SOUL**; having your **SOULS JOINED TOGETHER!**

The particular word translated here does not occur elsewhere in the New Testament. It means **A UNION OF SOUL**; or **an acting together as if but one SOUL actuated them**.

How many **SOULS** do you have in your body? One!
Just as schizophrenia is foreign and harmful to our body,
so also is **SCHISM** within **CHRIST’S BODY!**

D. “. . .of one mind. . .”

The expression “*of one mind*” means “*thinking the same thing*.”

The **APOSTLE** here is actually using a great variety of expressions to denote the same thing.

The goal—which is union of heart, of feeling, of plan, of purpose! He wanted them to avoid all divisions and strife.

Over and over again we see the importance of **HARMONY** among **BELIEVERS** stressed in the New Testament Scriptures.

Conclusion

Today we have entered **2023**. I trust that you see how that **CHRIST** is our example! He is our example for the **ATTITUDE** that we need to have throughout this year, and the year after that, and the year after that, and so on!
i.e. CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE FOR LIFE! HE IS OUR LIFE!

Whose mind do you have? What **JESUS** wants is for us to have **HIS MIND!**
It begins with **SALVATION!** It requires **SURRENDER!**