

Series: Philipppines Series 2024
Title: Same Mind, Same Love
Text: Php 2: 1-16
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Philippians 2: 1: If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2: Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being of one accord, of one mind.*

When we study scripture, we have the benefit of looking ahead and seeing what Paul is talking about--what same love, what one mind?

Philippians 2: 5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Epaphroditus had brought Paul a gift from these brethren and Paul had great joy for their love to him. But Epaphroditus informed him that Euodias and Syntyche were not of the same mind. So the Spirit of God moved Paul to write this letter to them.

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A REMINDER OF WHAT WE HAVE DUE TO OUR SAVIOR

First, we have a lesson in how to help brethren. Paul spoke of what we have due to Christ. But what about the issues that caused their problem? Paul is an aged believer at this point. He had experienced division before, personally. He did not have to ask. He knew what caused their contention.

Proverbs 13: 10: Only by pride cometh contention...

Paul knew that it is only by beholding Christ that his people are humbled and united. So Paul reminded them of the mind of Christ. Paul gives them the greatest motive believers have to pursue unity with one another. Paul said, "*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ; if any comfort of love.*"

Christ Jesus is the "consolation of Israel". Scripture says Simeon was waiting "for the consolation of Israel." When he saw Christ he said,

Luke 2: 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

When the Spirit gives us faith, Christ is our Consolation and our Peace with God.

Romans 5:1: 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.

2 Corinthians 1:5: For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father,...hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,...

So Paul says, "*If there be any.*" If Christ has given you even the least consolation and comfort by his great love for his people, if you behold in your brother or sister *any*--even a glimmer--of consolation and comfort

of love by Christ then "*Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*"

Paul said, "*If there be any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [tender affection] and mercies.*" The Spirit of God makes us know we are children of God. He makes us know the tender compassion and mercies of God our Father toward us who are unworthy of the least of his mercies.

Romans 8:15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Lamentations 3:22: *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

Psalms 103: 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

By the Spirit we have fellowship, communion. We are one with God in Christ. We are one with one another. So Paul says, "*If there be any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [tender affection] and mercies*"--even the slightest--any in you, any in your brethren, if any toward me, then--"*Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*"

Colossians 3: 12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

PARTICULARS

Philippians 2: 3 *Let nothing be done through strife.*

Strife is from our sinful flesh, not the Spirit of God.

James 3: 14: But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15: This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. 16: For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

James 4: 1: From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?...5: Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6: But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7: Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Philippians 2: 3: *Let nothing be done* [for] vainglory;

It is called "vain" glory because we have nothing to glory in.

1 Corinthians 4:7: For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

Philippians 2: 3...but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Paul esteemed his brethren better than himself. He meant it when he said,

1 Corinthians 15:9: I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

As the Lord grew him in grace, Paul said,

Ephesians 3:8 [I] am less than the least of all saints,...

As the Lord grew him in grace, Paul said,

1Timothy 1:15: This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The key to not having strife and vain glory is to be humbled by seeing more and more we are the least, the chief of sinners, so that we esteem our brethren better than ourselves.

Philippians 2: 4: Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

The kingdom of God is not meat and drink. But at that time, some Jewish believers were still learning they were free from the dietary laws. Some brethren, today, are weak when it comes to meat and drink. They think sin is in things. Sin is not in things. Sin is not in something you put in your mouth. But some are weak in faith when it comes to this. What should we do?

Romans 14: 19: Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. 20: For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence. 21: *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. 22: Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. 23: And he that doubteth is damned [his conscious is wounded] if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin. 15: 1: We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2: Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification. 3: For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

In our text, when Paul comes to this point, he said,

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LET THE MIND OF CHRIST BE IN YOU

Philippians 2: 5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

In lowliness of mind, Christ looked not on his own things, but on the things of others. He looked on the things of his Father. The Son of God came to manifest the righteousness of God his Father. He laid down his life to declare God just and the Justifier of those given faith in him. Christ came to magnify and honor the law for God his Father.

And he looked on the things of his elect. He saw us ruined in sin--unrighteous, unholy. Therefore, in lowliness of mind, he came to make us righteous and holy in himself. Christ humbled himself and loved us in perfection to fulfill the law on behalf of his people and provide us perfect Righteousness and Holiness in himself

Christ had every reason to glory.

Philippians 2; 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation,...

Christ is God, he is in every way equal with God--one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Yet, in lowliness of mind, esteeming his Father and his brethren so highly in love, looking on our needs, *he made himself of no reputation.*

The Lord Jesus was in the midst of his apostles one day and they began striving with one another, arguing for vain glory, over which of them should be the greatest in heaven. Christ said, "*which is greater, he that*

sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth" (Lu 22: 27). Christ did not come to be served but to serve. Christ served God for his people to make us the righteousness of God in him.

Philippians 2: 7...and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He who created the angels was made a little lower than the angels. He who made man was made in the likeness of men. Our Creator humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The fulfillment of the law is love. In perfect love to God and perfect love to his people, Christ who was without sin willingly gave himself to bear our shame, to suffer the just for the unjust. In perfect love, he manifest God's righteousness in how God is just and the Justifier by bearing the wrath of God in the place of his people that God might show us mercy justly! In perfect love he fulfilled the righteous love of the law by being made a curse for us and he put away our sins and our curse forever.

Motivated by love for his Father and love for his brethren, Christ voluntarily made himself the least and made it so God can receive us and we can be one! By his perfect humility, he perfectly submitted under God's might hand to the Father and doing so he highly exalted God.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The apostle Peter said, "Take it from me, from one who had to learn this by painful experience."

1 Peter 5: 5...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Paul said the same, "*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [inward affection and compassion] and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, of one accord, of one mind.*" What mind is that, Paul? What same love is that? "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*"

Philippians 2: 12: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul is saying, "Epaphroditus and Clement, when you go speak with Euodias or Syntyche--to work this thing out--endeavoring for unity and for peace--esteeming them better than yourself--looking on their needs--do *it with fear and trembling.*" Why? Because Christ is right there in your midst.

Philippians 2: 13: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

That is what Christ said in Matthew 18. He said that when you take two or three witnesses to win your brother and sister to unity--when you go to them esteeming them better than yourself--when two or three of you go to a brother or sister looking on their need to hear--when you speaking of Christ and his tender mercies to us--Christ said, "*where two or three are gathered together in my name*"--endeavoring to work out your daily affairs with each other--endeavoring for unity and peace--"*there I am in the midst of you.*" Paul said, "*So do it with fear and trembling.*" That is exactly what Christ was teaching us in Matthew 18. He began that passage saying do not offend one of his little ones. He ended it by telling Peter to forgive brethren without limit. In between Christ reminded us that he is with us working in you both to will and do of his good pleasure. Paul said therefore,

Philippians 2: 14: Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16: Holding forth the word of life;

Paul is holding forth Christ Jesus the Word of Life. He said do the same for one another. Do it for lost sinners. Paul said, "Hold forth the gospel of Christ to one another like I'm doing for you right here."

Philippians 2: 16...That I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Paul preached the love of Christ to them, in whom justice and mercy have met in harmony. That is the love that consoles and constrains and unites Christ's redeemed. He preached Christ for whose sake God is just to show his people compassion and mercies, for whose sake God is just to console us. He reminded them how Christ humbled himself for us and made himself the least and that is how he highly glorified God. In due time, God also exalted him.

Paul knew it was the gospel of Christ that humbled us from our vain glory and pride in the first hour. Therefore in submission to Christ, in humility, in lowliness of mind, esteeming his brethren better than himself, looking on their needs, in humbleness of mind, Paul preached Christ to them and entreated them to be of the same mind and same love as our Redeemer. May God make us use only this word of our Savior to help one another in every time of need. May God make us one in Christ.

Amen!