



Humble King, Humble People

Philippians 2:1-18

Background (as you are turning)

- A letter from prison by the Apostle Paul to a church he began around A.D. 49 (more or less) (10 years ago)
- Philippians is likely writing from a Roman prison around AD 61/62; if from other prisons (Caesarea, etc.) it would be a little earlier.
- Paul is in prison, the Philippians know it (they have sent him financial help— via one of their people), and they were apparently discouraged/distrust about his imprisonment
- Paul encourages the Philippian believers: **the gospel is ADVANCING despite the appearance.**
- **Paul calls these believers and God calls us through Paul today to LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST; NO MATTER WHAT COMES.**

Review Last week:

- (1) **Set your hope fully on God**
 - a. Fog of life
- (2) **Find your fulfillment in Jesus—**
 - a. Paul's story from PRISION: Jesus loved me, gave Himself for me. Now, I like that Christ might be HIGHLY exalted in my body. (Living is Christ; Dying is gain)
- (3) **Live worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ**
 - a. Even in suffering (Acts 5:41; Matt 5:10-12)
 - b. Story from the Insanity of God— "Don't give up in freedom what we would never give up in persecution."
 - c. This includes living with real
- (4) **TODAY:** We will see that living worthy of the gospel includes living with REAL humility and UNITY in the likeness of our King, Jesus.

READ: Philippians 1:21-2:18

Live worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, together (vs. 27)

Gospel: God demonstrates His own love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of ourselves..”

(1) Live in a MANNER worthy of the gospel of Christ. (vs. 27a)

1. “In all ages—and not least today—the greatest hindrance to the advance of the gospel has been the inconsistency of Christians. The gospel has its greatest influence when the lives of Christians commend it, and that gives us our special responsibility... In Philippi... Roman citizenship was prized, but the Philippian Christians had the responsibility to live individually and corporately as heavenly citizens (cf. 3:20).¹ ~ Francis Folkes

(2) Live together for the gospel: One spirit, one mind, side by side, for the faith. (vs. 27b)

- i. The saints embraced a common cause, for they each shared in the same body of Christ. Therefore Paul was burdened that they **stand firm** (cf. Phil. 4:1) **in one spirit** and contend **as one man** (lit., “in one soul”) **for the faith of the gospel**, the body of truth (cf. “faith,” Jude 3). Their **contending** (*synalthountes*) for the faith suggests **a joint effort, like that of an athletic team.**²

(3) Live together for the gospel, even in persecution. (vs. 29-30)

1. “**Don’t ever give up in freedom what we would never have given up in persecution! That is our witness to the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!**” –READ THE WHOLE

(4) **SUMMARY: Live worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, together.**

Living worthy includes living with **REAL HUMILITY** in the likeness of our King... Jesus.

Maintain unity: As the forgiven people of God, love one another.

(1) Christian, remember who you are and whose you are. (Philippians 2:1-2)

1. *How has God loved you?*
 - *Me: A new identity—no longer identified by my sin; victory over sin, forgiveness, new nature, provision, a family, a church family, -- everything I need.*
2. *How has knowing Jesus encouraged you?*
 - *I can’t imagine what it would be like to have to earn my worth. I am encouraged that I don’t earn my worth.*
3. *What is it like to have fellowship (deep community/relationship) with the Spirit; with fellow Christians? If this was lost completely?*
 - *I never walk alone. If life is overwhelming I depend on the Spirit of God and His people---READILY. I’m not alone.*
4. *How have you received the mercy from God?*
 - *I don’t deserve forgiveness, grace,*

(2) **Christians (local congregation), be of the same mind and purpose with fellow believers (vs. 2)**

1. **TOGETHER**
 - Philippians 1:27 (NASB95)

¹ Francis Foulkes, “Philippians,” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 1252.

² Robert P. Lightner, “Philippians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 652.

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in **one spirit**, with **one mind striving together** for the faith of the gospel;

(3) **Christian, do NOTHING from selfishness or pride. (vs. 3a)**

1. NOTHING
2. Selfishness, pride.



▪ **How does selfishness and pride play into DIVISIONS in the church?**

(4) **With HUMILITY, consider others MORE IMPORTANT than yourself. (vs. 3b)**

1. **Why humility? (an identity matter)**
 - **E.g. Usaine Bolt**—if he needs to prove he faster than a 12 year old—then he has an identity problem.
 - (grace vs. law) **Romans 5:8 (while still sinners)**
 - If you know that you are loved, forgiven, received mercy, have worth, then you don't "have to" receive it from the person in front of you.
2. **More important** than yourself (3b)
 - **MORE IMPORTANT**
 - **E.g. QUEEN of England** visiting our church today.
 - **E.g Joe Ukropt lunch.**
 - **E.g. "this is our pew."** (visited a church once—I think it was Florida—as a kid)
3. **Look Out for OTHERS' interests. (vs. 4)**
 - **LOOK OUT**—INTENTIONAL.



▪ **What would be effects of being a part of this kind of community of faith?**

- **(If others thought of you as MORE important than themselves?)**
- **SAFE. TRUST. REST. UNITY. LOVE. FAMILY**



▪ **How does your pride CREATE or PERPETUATE divisions?**
▪ **Practical ways for you to begin to LOOK OUT for others?**

SUMMARY:

1. **Maintain unity:** As the forgiven people of God, love one another:
2. **Live worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, together.**

Believer, live like your King: Love and humility are hallmarks of the Christian family.

*REALLY GRASP/CONSIDER THIS.

(1) Have the SAME attitude about yourselves as was in Jesus Christ.

1. **Willingly lay aside your rights to obey God (Philippians 2:5)**

- Your attitude and/or your relationships.

(2) Jesus DESERVED CONSTANT honor as God, but He laid this aside.

1. **Jesus existed in the form (morphe) of God (vs. 6)**

- “The term *morphē* denotes the outward manifestation that corresponds to the essence, in contrast to the noun *schema* (2:7), which refers to the outward appearance, which may be temporary. The participle *hyparchōn* (“**being**” [NIV], **in the sense of “existing”**) **is in the present tense and states Christ’s continuing condition**. To say that he was existing in the essential metaphysical form of God is tantamount to saying that he possessed the nature of God. The phrase is elaborated on by the words “equality with God” (*isa theō*). ~ **Homer A. Kent** (*The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*)

2. **In humility, Jesus emptied Himself of His positional rights. (vs. 6-8)**

- E.g. Prince and the Pauper; King incognito; **Daughtry in SBUX**. (“He sure doesn’t look like a celebrity.”)
 - **2 Corinthians 8:9** (NASB95)

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.
 - **Matthew 20:28** (NASB95)

²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- **7-8** So he made himself nothing. Literally it says ‘he emptied himself, not of his deity but of his glory; he made himself of no reputation’ (AV). Then when it says that he was made in human likeness and found in appearance as a man that does not merely mean similarity without the reality of our human nature. He was indeed truly human, as Paul says in Rom. 8:3 and Gal. 4:4, but the expression ‘leaves room for the thought that the human likeness is not the whole story’... He stooped lower still and became obedient to death. He lived a life of utter obedience (cf. Rom. 5:19; Heb. 5:8-9; 10:5-14), ‘even to the extent of dying’ (Phillips). That death, moreover, was death on a cross, a death of unimaginable pain and utter shame, a curse in the eyes of the Jews because of what the law said in Dt. 21:23 (see Gal. 3:13). What crucifixion meant to Romans is expressed in Cicero’s words, ‘Far be the very name of the cross, not only from the body, but even from the thought, the eyes, the ears of Roman citizens.’³ ~ Francis Foulkes

(1) This is radical humility. (2) Our King has already done this.

See “That’s My King”: <https://vimeo.com/1371841>

³ Ibid.

“There is no measure to His love; you cannot comprehend His grace. Oh, how we ought to love Him, and serve Him! The lower He stoops to save us, the higher we ought to lift Him in our adoring reverence. Blessed be His name, He stoops, and stoops, and stoops, and, when He reaches our level, and becomes man, He still stoops, and stoops, and stoops lower and deeper yet.” ~ **Charles Spurgeon**, *Spurgeon Commentary: Philippians*,

(5) Jesus, has the name of above every name (vs. 9-11)

(6) In light of Jesus, put aside disunity, divisions, and personal agendas.

1. “All these tremendous statements, we should remind ourselves, have in their context the most practical purpose of persuading the Philippians to put aside disunity, discord and personal ambition.”⁴ ~ **Francis Foulkes**

(7) The way of Christ is the way of obedience (vs. 12)

(8) Believer is strengthened to obey (vs. 13)

(9) Murmuring vs. FREE from murmuring (vs. 14)

(10) Shine like the stars (vs. 15)

(11) Hold Fast (vs. 16)

(12) Paul’s life situation remains (living is Christ, dying is gain) (Vs. 17-18)

Summary:

- (1) Live worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, together.**
- (2) Maintain unity: As the forgiven people of God, love one another.**
- (3) Believer, live like your King: Love and humility are hallmarks of the Christian family.**

To Go:

1. What does the Lord want you to do in response to His word?
2. How are you challenged by Paul’s letter to the Philippians? How are you encouraged?

To act on:

1. If you are not a Christian: Is there anything that is keeping you from trusting and identifying with Jesus as Savior and King?
2. If you are a Christian: Is there anything in your life that is challenging the Lord Jesus for supremacy?

⁴ Francis Foulkes, “Philippians,” 1253.