

Philippians 1:27-2:11 Having the Mind of Christ

So far in our study of the book of Philippians we have seen that Paul's heart was full of Joy

A) Because of what God was doing amongst the believers in Philippi

B) As well as what God was doing with and through Paul while in Prison

C) The Gospel was spreading throughout the Roman empire and Paul couldn't be more overjoyed

Tonight as we come to v.27 of chapter 1 Paul's tone is going to change a bit

A) He is concerned about the gospel continuing to advance in Philippi

B) Their conduct was going to be a huge part of that

C) So in V.27 – he begins to address having a conduct that is worthy of the gospel

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.

So Paul is sharing his heart and concern for the believers in Philippi

A) That whether he gets to come and see them or not

B) He wants to know that they are living lives worthy of the gospel of Christ

PAUL SAYS – let your conduct - your manner of life be worthy of the gospel

A) Worthy = **to balance the scales**
or to weigh as much – Picture scales

B) Your life on one – the gospel on the other.

1) Your manner of life – your conduct would match the gospel. – WEIGH AS MUCH

C) Paul's concern is not just for them individually but also corporately - I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

D) Striving together is what we call Synergy

1) Synergy is the increased effectiveness that results when two or more people work together.

Christianity is a team sport –

A) Stand fast – One spirit – one mind striving together – soon-ath-leh'-o

B) Athletes on a team coming together- contending together

C) Idea is I have to put aside my personal preferences and do what is best for the team!

1) Putting aside the I need to GET MINE mentality

D) Now The opposite of synergy is sideways energy – pulling in opposite directions

1) Pulling against each other

My Wife and I experienced this several years ago while on vacation in Maui

A) We decided to rent a TANDEM KAYAK
I love Kayaking –

B) **Kayak together** – Tandem – thinking so fun!

1) Disaster – we couldn't paddle in sync - we pulling opposite directions

C) Denise – get me out of this boat.

D) Led us to get her own kayak– Not trying that again!!!

E) Good news we have learned to paddle together in a Kayak as well as in Life.

1) It took some practice on both fronts

The church loses its synergy and starts having problems when we get focused on our own agendas

A) The church has lost that in the last 24 months

B) Politics – masks – vax or no vax – been Crazy

C) We need to keep the main thing the main thing – Simply Jesus

D) When a church is striving together for the faith of the gospel – It is powerful

1) There is strength in numbers

Paul's focus in V. 28-30 this is what he can happen

A) #1 The believers are emboldened V.28 – no longer terrified

B) #2 The work of the enemy is weakened and destroyed v.28b **proof of their perdition or destruction**

C) #3 The gospel advances v.28c **resulting in salvation from God**

D) #4 Believers are able to stand strong in the midst of opposition V.29

So Paul exhorts – individually – have a conduct a manner of life worthy of the gospel

A) And corporately to be striving together for the faith or work of the gospel

B) Simply put – keep the main thing the main thing -SIMPLY JESUS

C) Ch. 2 Paul is going to tell us exactly how to do that in chapter 2

Therefore if there is any consolation (encouragement) 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.**

Paul is once again stressing the importance of Synergy

A) **like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

B) In V.5 he is going to tell us the kind of mind that we are to have – **the mind of Christ**

1) More about that in a minute

C) But first he contrast two ways of thinking

1) The world's way – the Jesus way

The world's way 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit,

A) The world's way – it is all about me and my agenda my desires – my plans – focus is me

B) The Jesus way: **but in lowliness of mind (humility) let each esteem others better than himself.**

1) NIV Value others better than himself

C) I like that word – Value – You value something – you protect it – you take care of it

D) Keep it in a special place – or protective cover

When you Value others above yourself – v.4 happens

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Listen a great way to VALUE OTHERS – IS to show interest in the things that interest them.

A) Even if those things don't interest you!

B) I had to learn this with my son- Me and my dad connected easily through sports – **Bills /Chiefs**

C) Well God gave me a son who didn't like sports at all.

1) Sports was too boring for his mind – Aaron is so creative.

D) His interest was in building things – creating things

1) Art – things I wasn't good at

E) I had to intentionally make an effort to show interest in things that didn't interest me.

1) What are you building ?

F) Video games: What are you playing – can I play

1) Mario Cart of something – Destroy me!!

You Value others - By INTENTIONALLY showing interest in things that don't normally interest you.

A) Here is what will often times happen -There will be a connection

B) You will end up gaining an interest in those things

1) Denise and Golf - Sunday Lunch

C) Denise Football – Cheering for the other team!

When you show interest in something – that interest someone else – you are validating them.

A) I care enough about you- to get interested in what you are interested in.

B) When we do this -We become more like Jesus –

C) And We have Relationships that reflect the gospel

D) Paul gives THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE

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.

Jesus esteemed you and I and our need of Salvation greater than His position –

A) His right to Uphold his Place of Dignity

B) He laid that aside: Humbled himself – Came to this earth – Servant Went to a Cross – For us !

C) This is one of the most powerful passages in the NT – break it down for a few minutes

who, being in the form of God,

A) Now when we hear the word form - we think of an outward form.

B) We think of size, and we think of shape, but that is not the word that is used.

1) If Paul wanted to talk about outward form, he would have used the Greek word schema.

C) The thing about Schema or the outward form is it is always changing.

D) Some of us it is changing every week – Our look our weight - RIGHT?

1) Trying to lose some weight right now – but Tuesday I ate horrible – weighed today lost a lb

E) Schema is always changing

Schema is not the word that Paul uses –

A) PAUL uses the word Morphe – which speaks of essence, nature, and character.

B) JESUS was the exact essence and nature and character of the Father

C) The Book of Hebrews gives us insight – when it says this of Jesus

Hebrews 1:3 tells us, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.”

Note that Jesus is not a mere reflector of God’s glory.

A) He is “the radiance,” the one who radiates the glory of God!

B) Imprint - Today we would say – He was a perfect match in his finger print – or his DNA

C) So what Paul is saying using this term being in the form of God.

1) is that Jesus Christ possessed the unchangeable essential nature, character and glory of God -

D) Paul is taking us into the throne of heaven – pre- incarnation –

1) and telling us – this is how Jesus existed! – The very essence, nature, character and glory of God

E) That is why Jesus could say: if you have seen me you have seen the Father –

1) Fully God – in essence, in nature, in Character.

⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

A) Now at first glance that can seem like an odd statement: - He did not consider it Robbery to be equal with God.

B) To rob someone is to take something that doesn’t belong to you.

1) That is A definition of robbery

C) But another definition in that culture: A Prize - a treasure to be clutched & retained at all cost.

D) This is the way that Paul is using it

That Jesus being in the form of God – did not view his position or being equal to the Father as something he had to hold onto and not let go of.

A) Think of it this way: When the idea was presented that Jesus would leave Heaven – come to earth –

B)He would come not in his glory but as a man

1)Jesus didn't respond – no way – I am not doing that !

C)I am not laying aside all of this- to go down there

1)And If I go down there they are going to know exactly who I am – Royalty & Majesty

D)At least some aspect of my glory is going to be seen.

1)No Jesus was willing to be emptied! – notice how Paul puts it - ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man

Jesus emptied himself by allowing his glory to be concealed in his humanity – He didn't glow -Judas

A)He wasn't the best looking – People Mag

B)Glimpse at MT transfiguration

C)This is why he prays in John 17 verse 5. He says and now, Father, glorify me together with yourself with the glory which I had with you before the world was.

D)He longed to come back into that setting – His glory would be on display again

**So he was emptied of His glory
#2 He was emptied of his independent authority**

A)V.7 taking the form of a bondservant – bondservant was a willing servant – 7 yrs – pledge to his master

B)Jesus was in complete and willful submission to the plan of the father

C)Jesus in John 5:30 said, I do not seek my own will. I seek the will of Him who sent me.

D)He was emptied of his independent authority

1)His rights – His needs – His Desire – I AM ABOUT MY FATHERS BUSINESS

So this is the Picture that Paul is painting for us – this is where Jesus was - Glory – heaven –

A)Equal with the Father – but he left all of that

B)He emptied himself – glory concealed – he put on humanity – made himself – no reputation

C)He emptied himself – of his independent authority

Paul is continuing to build this picture

V.8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

A)He Humbled himself:

B)Note that: No one humbled him!

1)Herod did not humble him./ Pilate did not humble him. The high priest did not humble him.

C)The Romans did not humble him. Jesus “humbled himself.”

D)The humblest man who ever lived is Christ himself, the God-man.

1)No other man or woman has even come close!

E)Let this mind be in you... Christ Jesus

I have always found it interesting – that at the baptism of Jesus – God says this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased

A)Jesus hadn't done anything earthly yet – no miracles – so healings, no sermons

B)But the father was pleased with his son's – obedience and heart for the plan

C)Same thing is true of us – when we seek to walk in the same mind as Jesus

1)The father is well pleased with us

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.

Here is what we learn from the example of Jesus – the way up is down!

A)Humble ourselves – submit ourselves

B)Matthew 23:12 - And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

C)If not exalted here – you will be there!

**D) Jesus went to the cross – Died for our sins –
1) Three days later Rose again -**

**E) 40 days later – Ascended – returned to Heaven
1) Imagine the welcome home RECEPTION HE
GOT**

Bow now! Or Bow Later – Later will be too late!