

Philippians 2:1-4 Relationships Worthy of the Gospel

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. -

PRAY

There is a reoccurring theme in the writings of the Apostle Paul –

➤ **New birth – should result in New behavior**

A) Romans 6 – Crucified with Christ – old man – rendered inactive *so present your members ... not to the flesh – but to God*

B) New Birth – should result in New Behavior

C) Ephesians 1-3 Your Spiritual wealth – this is who you are in Christ

1) So Chapters 4-6 Walk in this way.... Light, in love, in wisdom

➤ **New Birth – should result in New Behavior**

D) Colossians 3 Since you have been raised - - Put off the old man and put on the new man!

1) Put off lying, slander, anger, malice,

2) Put on mercy, gentleness, kindness and love

➤ **New Birth – should result in New Behavior**

Over and over – Paul states that reality in a different way: New birth should result in New Behavior

A) We see it again here in the book of Philippians -

B) We left off in our study last time – Paul exhortation V1:27 *that we have a manner of life – that weighs as much as the Gospel.*

C) The Gospel and all it stands for - Hope, Love, Grace- on one side of the scale

1) Your life on the other – it should weigh the same.

Paul continues that thought in Ch. 2 revealing how the gospel should affect our relationships w/ others!

A) We should have relationships that weigh as much as the Gospel as well.

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

B) The if's are not in the form of a question – but more of a statement – a fact –

1) we might say: If then..... If true... THEN...

C) Paul is stating facts:

➤ Yes, they had been encouraged by their union with Christ.

➤ Yes, they had experienced God's love.

➤ **Yes, they had enjoyed the fellowship of God's Spirit.**

➤ **Yes, they had received an outpouring of mercy from God.**

Everything that Paul mentions in v.1 is a byproduct of their new Birth – Brought together in Christ

A) Filled with God's love – Holy Spirit pours his love into us

B) **Unity of the Spirit – Sinners saved by grace** –

1) All experienced God's mercy – Mercy is not getting what you do deserve –

C) We deserved Judgment – got grace

D) **That is who we are now** – because of our New Birth – so how should that reflect our behavior -

1) Relationships that would be worthy of the Gospel

#1 A likeminded love: ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

A) Notice in V.5 *Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus - THE EXAMPLE*

B) Start thinking the way that Jesus did! –

C) Jesus was in heaven: Being worshipped – center of attention – He left all of that behind –

1) He saw our need as greater than his own comfort.

D) He stepped out of heaven and into our world – NOT AS A KING

1) But as a servant – He humbled himself – in order to rescue us

Let this mind be in you.... You start thinking the way that He did.

A) Paul is going to use the word – Let 4 times in vs – 3-5 meaning – this is a choice – a decision that you make

B) Like the decision that Jesus made: He chose our need and His father's mission – over His own comfort – His own prestige

C) Let – it is a choice – doesn't come natural –

Paul is going to tell us exactly what that choice looks like: Relationships worthy of the Gospel #2 Put off Selfish ambition and Pride V.3

A) Self-centeredness is ingrained in all of us. – **You are always on your mind. – Eat – wear- happy**

B) Recent article Newsweek Magazine. They said, and I quote, "If Americans could **have their wildest dreams come true**, 38% would choose to win the lottery and only 1% would pick world peace."

C) 38% win the Lottery – only 1% would pick world peace.

1) We are consumed with Self – what is in it for me!

D) How is this going to affect me!

1) What are you going to do to make my life – better!

Most of us are consumed with ourselves

A) We live in the selfie culture: Instagram 800 million active users – and 500 million – post daily

B) And by far the most popular picture on Instagram is the selfie

1) 1,000 selfies are posted to Instagram every 10 seconds.

C) There are **93 million selfies each day**, which would represent over 2.5 million rolls of film

D) Demonstrate a selfie -

1) That is the most popular picture on the internet today!

This might surprise you- Did you know that in 2015 death by selfie was greater than death by shark attack worldwide?

A) You know we have Shark Week every year?

B) They could **have selfie week every year**. It would be just as dramatic, if not more so.

C) Here is what happens: people are obsessed with getting a cool shot of them – they take risk

1) Climb on a bridge – and fall – too close to a cliff and fall

D) Not kidding: Death by selfie greater than death by shark attack.

Selfishness is at the root of all other sins - - Started with Satan

A) Satan placed his will above God's will. – Worshipped as God -

B) **That's where it all started, selfishness. Eve placed her will above God's will. Selfishness.**

1) And then Adam placed his will above God's will. Selfishness.

C) **Selfishness is the me first philosophy.**

1) That seed is implanted in every single child who is ever born.

D) **You don't have to teach your children how to be selfish – comes naturally – MINE**

1) YOU have to teach your kids how to share – and how to be others centered.

One Christian mom – was actively trying to get her little kids to learn that – Praying for others each night

A) Pick one person.....

B) One day that mom was driving her five-year-old son to McDonald's.

1) And there was a traffic accident up ahead

C)Saw this as a prayer moment: Son lets pray for the accident!

1)So from the back seat, the little five-year-old boy could be heard praying, **please God, don't let those cars block the entrance to the McDonald's. Amen.**

D)We understand that. That's human nature.

I hate to admit it – but there have been times when I was in traffic – accident – my first thought was:

A)Now I am going to be late – self focused
Now usually I catch myself –

B)But my first reaction – is toward self!

1)How am I going to be affected by this

C)Country music group – got it right – Life is a HWY - - I am going MY WAY

D)The quickest road to unhappiness is the Freeway of Self.

1)And if you get on that freeway of self, you know it you're going to discover? Its packed.

E)It's bumper to bumper traffic. – Most people are on that FWY

The Brother of Selfishness is Pride

³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit,- {vain conceit -

A)Vain conceit is the attitude that you are always right.

B)it was a word that was used to describe a person who had exaggerated ideas of his or her own importance- **puff ourselves up**

C)One way – that works – more subtle – we tear someone else down –

1)In order to make ourselves look better- we will say something negative about someone else

D)Well you know... did you hear... or he/she is so

The HWY of selfishness and pride is a packed Hwy

A)Paul says: You want relationships that are worthy of the gospel – You drive in the opposite direction -

B)You Put off selfish ambition and pride

#3 Put on Humility

A)Realize the world doesn't revolve around you –

B)Romans 12:3 Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. NLT

C)You want to know something? Pride will make God your enemy.

1)I want you to think about that statement.

D)The quickest way to get God against you is puff yourself up with pride.

You will have God set against you quicker than any other way.

A)And, if you want to get God on your side, quickest way to do that, humility.

B)You say, PR can you prove that? Yes.

1)Twice in the NT, once in the book of James, once in the book of Peter, they write this.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6 / 1 Peter 5:5

C)In the Greek culture, lowliness of mind, or humility, was not a virtue to be desired.

1)It was considered a bad quality to be dispensed with, or pushed away.

D)See The Greeks really thought they were superior to everybody else in the world.

1)Everybody who wasn't a Greek was called by them a barbarian.

E)The Greeks looked at slaves – those who served others as being humble minded.

Isn't it interesting the very quality that the Greeks thought was so bad, the Bible says is so good?

A)Matthew 23:11 – But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

B)How do we have relationships that are worthy of or weigh as much as the gospel

1)Follow the example of Jesus

C) Put off selfishness – Put on Humility
#4 Esteem others above yourself

³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. NIV Value others

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

B) Value my Laptop – work on it - Laptop bag – Value others above yourself –

C) Philippians 2 is a great marriage passage

Have you ever been to an event where you were not the most important person in the room?

A) Not a trick question – of course you have – Ever been to a wedding? And you were not the bride.

B) No one stood to attention when you walked in the room did they? – Not important in the room

C) Don Shula – Hall of fame coach – Miami –

1) Matinee – He and his wife – walked in – 20 or so people started clapping

D) Sat down – Wife said: You are known and loved everywhere dear.

E) The guy in front of them – said: Boy were we glad to see you. –

1) Shula – I am surprised you all recognized me in this dim lighting.... Needed 2 more people to start

Think for a minute: How do you act when you are in a room with someone more important than you.

A) Someone you admire? – Respect right

B) You don't interrupt them – or correct their stories

1) You don't try to one up them –

C) You are NOT trying to make others think you are more important than they are.

D) When You are around someone who is more important than you –

1) you laugh at their jokes not funny – you defer to them

E) Often times there is a sense of being awestruck can you believe that is

Well imagine a relationship between you and your spouse where there was still that sense of awe

A) Imagine a marriage relationship where you actually said: I am going to treat you like you are more important than me

B) But that is the problem you say: They are not more important than me –

1) they are not smarter, more talented, more organized – family fall apart if not for me.

C) Listen: that is not the issue: Paul says – I want you to treat them like they are more important

1) not because they are – but I want you to treat them as if they were.

D) Make them so comfortable – show them such respect – so that they always want to lean in your direction.

1) You are the first person they want to come to when they have some good news to share – or when they have a problem.

E) Learn the secret of Valuing others –

1) Encourage – look for things to compliment them on - - You do this really good.

In V.4 Paul gives us a very practical way to value others. 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

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

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

1) His interest was in building things – creating things

Art – things I wasn't good at

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

1) What are you building -

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

1) Killed me – Basketball – still killed me

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

A)There will be a connection – and in many cases you will discover this

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)If both people are doing that – it is like dancing – flows – rhythm – awesome

C)We become more like Jesus – We have Relationships that reflect the gospel

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 !

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.

Bow now or bow later! – later is too late

Later is longer