

Philippians 2:1-30 **Humble unity of mind and spirit**

Be of one mind in love

¹ 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.

Have the Mind of Christ

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. 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.

Work out your own Salvation with fear and trembling

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you 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; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Desire to send Timothy and hopefully to accompany him – waiting to see the results of their imprisonment

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

Sending Epaphroditus – Receive him in the Lord

²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶ since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

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Facts Revealed:

Be of one mind in love [Philippians 2:1-4]

- ✚ Paul has spoken of those in Philippi who preach Christ with wrong motives with wrong purpose, and those who preach Christ with good motives and good intent. [Philippians 1:15-17]
- ✧ Therefore, Paul pleads for them to be of one mind in handling the Gospel of Christ.
- ✧ In Christ, Paul finds Consolation, comfort of Love, Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Affection, and Mercy.
- ✧ Paul would be filled with Joy to learn that the Philippians were all in unity of spirit, being like minded, having the same love, and being in one accord, and of one mind.
- ✧ The best way to accomplish true unity is to avoid selfish ambition and conceit, and in true humbleness of mind to esteem others better than self.
- ✧ It is best for each person to place the interests of others above the interests of self, or at least hold them of equal importance.

Have the Mind of Christ [Philippians 2:5-11]

- ✚ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:
 - ✧ Jesus, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God (a position He had before the beginning). [John 1:1-4]
 - ✧ Jesus made Himself of no reputation, taking on the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men.
 - ✧ Being in the appearance of man, Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to the death, even the death of the cross.
 - ✧ Therefore, God also has highly exalted Jesus and given Him a name which is above every name.
 - ✧ That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth.
 - ✧ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ (Messiah) is Lord (Yehowah) to the glory of God the Father.
 - ✧ Jesus then becomes the ultimate example of one humbling Himself for mankind, and His exaltation demonstrates the reward God the Father gives for such obedience.

Work out your own Salvation with fear and trembling [Philippians 2:12-18]

- ✚ Paul acknowledged that the Philippians were obedient to his instructions while he was with them, and now asks them to be obedient in his absence.
- ✚ Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
 - ✧ We are saved by Grace through Faith, both of which are gifts of God, not of works, lest any one should boast. [Ephesians 2:8-9]
 - ✧ We are made a new creation in Christ **for good works** that God intended for us to do before hand. [Ephesians 2:10]
 - ✧ To accomplish the Will of God, we must set our minds to be obedient to His commands.
 - ✧ Our attitude in following Christ is of utmost importance.
 - ✧ It is God who is working in us both to desire and to do His good pleasure.
- ✚ Paul is writing to a divided Church and is calling them to unity which impacts their attitude in everything.
 - ✧ Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless children of God.
 - ✧ Keep yourselves without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.
 - ✧ Hold fast to the Word of Life.

- ✚ Paul gave these commandments with the goal that he might rejoice in the Day of Christ, with the evidence that He has not run or labored in vain.
- ✧ Paul is satisfied with his persecution and imprisonment if it serves as a drink offering poured out on the sacrifice and service of the faith of the Philippians.
- ✧ As the imprisonment of Paul has had a positive effect among all the Praetorian Guard, Paul desires to be glad and rejoice with his converts as he sees their faithfulness also. [Philippians 1:12-14, 2:17]
- ✧ Paul desires they may also rejoice with him. [Philippians 2:18]

Desire to send Timothy and hopefully to accompany him – waiting to see the results of their imprisonment [Philippians 2:19]

- ✚ Paul is a prisoner in Rome and expects Timothy to be set free soon, at which time Paul plans to send Timothy to Philippi. [Hebrews 13:23-24]
- ✧ Paul desires to send Timothy so he may send a report back to Paul regarding the state of affairs in the Church at Philippi.
- ✧ No one is left with Paul except for Timothy who has a heart akin to Paul regarding the Philippians.
- ✧ The Philippians know Timothy's proven character and his faithfulness as a son with Paul in ministering the Gospel.
- ✧ Most have gone their own way concerned about their own affairs more than Christ Jesus.
- ✧ Paul is waiting to send Timothy until he knows what to expect of his own imprisonment and possible release.
- ✧ Paul is hoping to come to Philippi soon.

Sending Epaphroditus – Receive him in the Lord [Philippians 2:25-30]

- ✚ Epaphroditus was sent to Paul from the Philippian Church with a support gift during Paul's roman imprisonment.
- ✧ Epaphroditus ministered to the needs of Paul and came close to death, not regarding his own life, to supply what was lacking in the Philippian gift and service toward Paul.
- ✧ Epaphroditus was longing for the Philippians, and distressed because they had heard that he was sick, and the sickness was almost to the death, but God had mercy on him.
- ✧ Paul counted it to be mercy on himself also lest he should have additional sorrow.
- ✧ When Epaphroditus recovered from his sickness, Paul was the more eager to send him to Philippi, so when they see him again they may rejoice, and Paul will be less sorrowful.
- ✧ Paul then asked them to receive Epaphroditus in the Lord with all gladness.
- ✧ Paul advised that they hold such men in esteem for the work and service they render in the Lord.
- ✧ This letter was carried from Paul to the Church at Philippi by Epaphroditus.