

PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 2:1-11

1. **The term “if” in verse 1 is better understood as “since.” With that in mind what does Paul say that we have received as believers from Christ?** Encouragement, comfort, fellowship (“joint participation”) in the Spirit, tender affection and mercy.

a. From verse 2 what are we directed to do? Make a list. To be like minded (“be of the same mind/understanding”), to have the same love (“agape” - committed love), being one (“fellow minded”/“of one mind”) in spirit, (“harmonious”) in purpose (“intent or focused on one purpose/opinion”).

b. How can dissimilar people be unified in love, spirit and purpose as Christians. Take some time to think about this before you answer. Irregardless of one’s political views, physical shape, rich or poor, all in Christ can (and need to be) united in loving God, desiring His honor and in seeking one another’s welfare.

c. How is this shown by the way we are directed to behave (2:3-4)? We should do nothing from selfish ambition (“electioneering/seeking office” - a desire to put one’s self forward) or vain (“empty”) conceit (“groundless self esteem”). In humility (“modesty”) we are to consider (“esteem/count”) others more important than ourselves.

2. From verses 5-11:

a. How are we to be minded? With the same mind as Christ.

b. From 1 Jn 3:16-23, how are we to love one another? Like Jesus loved us - He put everything on the line for us (e.g., Rom 5:8).

- **What might this entail (See also James 2)?** Caring for the needs of others. Anything that they legitimately need that lies within our power (Jas 4:17).

- **How have we been loved by Christ?** Totally, even to the sacrifice of Himself.

c. What has Christ done for us (Please make a list!)? Wow, where does one start? Here are a few things to remember - He paid our sin debt, reconciled us to God, adopted us as children, indwelt us with His Spirit, equipped us for service, empowered us for service, made us citizens of heaven, prepares a place for us, intercedes for us, completes His work in us, disciplines us, encourages us, clothes us in His righteousness. And so much more.

d. Compare Isaiah 45:18-25 with Phil 2:5-11.

Isaiah 45:18-25

He is God and there is no other (Creator, Revelator, and only God - righteous and Savior.

He has sworn a true and irrevocable word:

- Before Him every knee will bow
- By Him every tongue will swear (that in the Lord alone are righteousness and strength).

His enemies will be put to shame.

In Him the righteous will exult.

Phil 2:5-11

In form (very nature) God.

Did not regard equality something to be grasped.

Took on very nature of a servant

Found in appearance as a man.

Humbled self and became obedient unto death (on a cross).

Exalted by God to highest place:

- At the name of Jesus every knee should bow (*everywhere*)
- At the name of Jesus every tongue will swear (“confess/honor acknowledge”) that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

HOMEWORK

Please read Philippians again and pay special attention to 2:12-18. Then answer the following questions:

1. How do we live out our faith?
 - a. Knowing that we are not able to *achieve* salvation through our own merit, what do you suppose that it means when it says to “work out your salvation?” (2:12-13)
 - b. What are we to keep in mind as we seek to do this? (2:13)
2. Verses 14-16a seem to be illustrating *how* we are to do this. What does it say?
 - a. Look up and define:
 - Complaining
 - Arguing
 - b. From 2:14-16a, how should our lives bear witness to Christ?
 - c. What term does Paul use to describe the world in which we live? (2:15)
3. Look up and write down anything that you can find out about the drink offering.
 - a. How was Paul describing his life?
 - b. How does he tie this in to their faith?
 - c. What was his attitude regarding this and how did he want them to feel about it?
4. Based on this (and 1:12-18a) what should be our attitude toward ministry? Be specific.

