



Title: Experiencing Philippians

Lesson 2

Read the introduction, the text, Reflect on them and take notes: (10) minutes

Read: Unity is a result of Humility; which comes from walking in Love.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NASB) ¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Reflection: **2 Corinthians 13:14 (NASB)** ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

1 Peter 3:8-9 (NASB) ⁸ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Ask:

1. What is the writer [The Apostle Paul] trying to share with us?
2. Why do you think He [Paul] uses the word "If" when discussing various aspects of the Christian Walk found in verse 1; when, they he [Paul] has already stated they are with us (Christians/Believers) all, as evident in 2 Corinthians 13:14?
3. How does Paul tell us to make his Joy complete? The word, maintain, is interesting as it denotes effort on our part.
4. What is your understanding of the purpose we are to be intent on (verse 2)?
5. Verses three and four are very opposing to the way society attempts to direct our behavior. How will you accomplish the instructions provided in those verses?

Read: Be Like Christ; our example (the pattern for us to follow).

Philippians 2:5-11 (NASB) ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reflection: **Matthew 20:25-28 (NASB)** ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 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."

Ask:

1. The Apostle Paul implores us about to have the same attitude that Christ had; then makes an interesting statement about how Christ emptied Himself (Verse 7). What is your understanding of how Christ emptied Himself? How does that look in your life?

2. **Hebrews 5:8 (NASB)**⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. What is your understanding of He [Christ] humbling Himself by becoming obedient (Verse 8)? What does that look in our day to day life?
3. Verse nine states, “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him... What is your understanding of the reason He [Christ] was highly exalted? Also, how does that change your mindset of appointed positions (e.g. promotions, etc.)? If you’re viewing exaltations in your life with a new perspective (as opposed to society’s practices); how does that change your approach to accomplishments / exaltations in your day-to-day walk?