

# Find Joy - In Humility

So far in this series on the letter to the Philippians, we've looked at finding joy in life, in the gospel, and in the here and now. Today, Find Joy In Humility.

Humility is such an important trait for the follower of Jesus. It's been said that all sin comes from pride. Pride is having too high of an opinion of yourself or your importance. Humility is having a modest opinion of yourself or your importance.

As a born again believer, you should know your position in life without Jesus isn't so good. No matter what wealth or power you have among men, what does it matter if you are only living for this temporal life on earth? What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul? Right?

But IN CHRIST, we are victorious, we are kings and priests, we have power and authority. Yet we must still have humility. Many great leaders have fallen because of pride.

Humility is not necessarily thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.

So following up finding joy in the here and now:

## **Philippians 2:1-2 (NKJV)**

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.

Any consolation in Christ?

- meaning to come alongside and help, counsel, encourage
- We are commended by Christ and never have to face condemnation from Him

Any comfort of love?

- Meaning the alleviation of suffering and misery
- He pours out His love on us and gives us great comfort and security knowing He will never abandon us

Any fellowship of the Spirit?

- Meaning association, partnership, closeness with the Holy Spirit
- We have immediate access to God by the same power that raised Christ from the dead that now dwells in the believer

Any affection and mercy?

- These words are used to describe feeling something in your gut, intestines, and bowels. The Hebrews expressed attitudes and emotions in terms of physiological symptoms.
- So this is having that deep affection and care for others. It's like when we see someone else suffering and we're like "oh" and kind of feel it....

So if (since) you have these things....be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

The people of God need to be like-minded. If we are not, we just war with each other instead of accomplishing the work of God that Jesus has for the church.

Being like-minded does not mean same-minded. If we all had the same mind, not only would that be pretty boring but would we really even need to work together? We NEED diversity in the body of Christ. Why do you think we have different gifts and talents? Don't you think it would work the same with our minds?

We are to be like-minded, united in pursuit of the same purpose!

Will we have differences? SURE.....I would hope so.....but can we get past our differences in the small things and agree on the big things?

Here are the big things: We have the same love. We are one in spirit. We are one in mind. Same goal. And what unites us is greater than what divides us.

If we are being transformed by the renewing of our mind by the same Holy Spirit, we should be like-minded. We are seeking Jesus and following the Holy Spirit's lead. We are advancing the kingdom of God! ABOVE ALL.....including our own thoughts and desires (our will). We are seeking His will!

On a basketball team you have people that have learned different systems and plays in the past. These players have different talents and skill sets. Some can rebound and can't hit a shot. Some can make 3's and can't make anything inside. Others can pass the ball like no one else. Then you have my favorite, the guy that plays lockdown defense on the other team's best scorer.

Do these players all have the SAME MIND? NO! But to be successful they have to be LIKE MINDED. They have to work together to score more points than the other team. They see things differently, they have different skills and even desires. But if they all just seek their own and do what they want, they will fail. They ultimately have to use their differences to work together and follow the coach's game plan to win....

Sometimes they can get lucky and win when someone does their own thing, but they don't win it all that way....just a game here and there....

What unites us is greater than what divides us.

Connection Church needs to see a healthy church family, not a dysfunctional family. We need to be a family that first and foremost works hard to get along. We need to overlook the small stuff, to work through conflict, to become quick repenters and quick forgivers, so others can see the love of God in the way we treat each other. When that happens, people are drawn to God.

Let's be like-minded. What does this have to do with humility? What we think of ourselves has a major impact on us being like-minded....

**Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV)**

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.

This is the key to humility.....let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit....

It is natural for you to look out for #1. Because of sin entering the world, our nature (sin nature) is selfish and prideful (I'm more important).

And there certainly are some times where you have to put yourself first, but if we go only by our mind (not like-minded) we would always put self first.

On an airplane, if the oxygen drops, put yours on first then help those around you. That's not selfish, that is wisdom. You can't help others if you can't breathe and die.

But let's say you have to get in the car in a hurry and get going. Who is going to toss their young child in the back and then jump in the driver's seat and buckle up, telling the child "you are on your own" That would be selfish...

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition - we have this temptation at times....some more than others....this is where we push our own agenda, try to get our way....it's actually translated from the word "strife".....strife involves discord, struggle, rivalry...things that prevent like-mindedness....things that prevent us from doing the work of God!

And you know the devil is so cunning (that's the word used to describe him in Gen 3), he uses our selfish desire against us at times to think we are just right and everyone else is wrong. He gets us to question what someone else said or what they meant. Strife!

Let NOTHING be done through this.....

OR through conceit (vainglory, empty glory) this refers to the pursuit of personal glory. “Look at me”.....you know why that is empty?

In Matthew 6, Jesus said when you do good, be careful not to be recognized by men because if you do then you will have no reward with your Father in heaven because you will already have your reward. But instead do it in secret and your Father will reward you!

Instead of doing things through this selfish ambition or conceit.....in lowliness of mind (humility of mind) esteem (consider) others better than yourself.

We see Paul model this in 1 Cor 15, when he said “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

See Paul knows what the Holy Spirit has done through him.....and it was a lot, amazing things....but he also remembers where Jesus found him.

You know if most of you would just think back to where Jesus found you, it would change the way you see others. You are capable of more than you give yourself credit for....both in good and in bad.

We are all one bad decision away from being where someone else is at.....and they are one good decision away from being where you are at! Praise Jesus.....stay humble.

Actually look at people as though they are better than you....like they are overtop of you, superior in rank. Do you know why this is so important?

First, they actually just might be! Secondly, when we look at them like they are over us, then we show them respect and honor. We treat them like they matter....more than us.

And when we ALL do that.....when we come together, we give way to like-mindedness in humility instead of causing strife in our selfishness trying to get our own way....we work things out and what unites us is greater than what divides us....

Church, this is where we find JOY in humility!

We find great delight, happiness, satisfaction, we are glad in humility because we know that it's not about ME.....it's about Jesus.....same love, same spirit, same mind.....

How do we get here? If you are here how do we stay here?

**Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

In your relationships with one another, have same mindset as Jesus!  
Don't ever let this get old....Jesus IS our model. He is the standard. He is "normal".

**Philippians 2:6-7 (NKJV)**

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.

Here's the model to follow. Jesus did not see His throne in heaven as something to hold on to. His position was not something that was more important than you and me.

So He made Himself nothing, gave it up.....

- He set aside heavenly glory, no longer face to face with the Father
- He set aside independent authority, completely submitted to the Father's will
- He set aside divine privileges, now had to rely on and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance

He became a man and became a servant.....this is humility!

**Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)**

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.

This verse shifts from the heavenly perspective of v6-7 to the earthly perspective. As God he humbled Himself by giving up all of those heavenly things something that may be hard for you and I to relate to or understand.

You know it's common for people that aren't rich to say how rich people should give more? Even though we have NO CLUE how much they may already be giving.....

I wonder if we sometimes view Jesus leaving heaven for earth in that way....

But here He comes as a man.....like you and me.....and what does He do? Humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death....

That's you and me right there. Jesus had the same rights and privileges as us. He was subjected to the same sufferings and issues. Yet He was obedient.....

It takes humility to follow someone else's lead. YOU have to humble YOURSELF.....to be obedient. Jesus did this even to the point of death on a cross....a criminal's death....the lowliest state of all.

Are you willing to humble yourself and follow Jesus even if it costs you your life? Even if it's not fair or just?

Not if you are doing things for selfish gain or temporary glory.....

Jesus did this to save us but also to show us the way....humility and obedience. I tell you, they lead to great joy!

**Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)**

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.

Have you made this confession? If not, let today be that day! Why wait....

If you want joy, you'll find it in humility. In thinking of yourself less because you think about Jesus more, who He is and what He's done.

And when you think about Jesus more, you think about others more. To the point where you reflect on your life without Jesus and think.....where would I be without Him. And your moved with compassion for those who don't know Him, and you treat them as though they are greater than yourself....

Can we be like-minded today? Can we say that we are in this for Him and not for us?

Because like with Jesus.....what happens when we are humble before God, is that He elevates us....maybe not on this earth, but in heaven.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:10)