

# Paul's Lockdown

A MIDWEEK STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

THE SECRET TO UNITY - HUMILITY

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Philippians 1:27-2:11

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**MAIN IDEA:** Paul develops the idea that genuine unity is only possible where there is true humility. And true humility is found in Jesus' example and through his grace.

## **27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

- This idea of living a life worthy of the gospel is a common theme in Paul's thinking
  - Eph 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love
  - Col 1:10 We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way...
  - The New International Version. (2011). (Col 1:9–10). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- What does that conduct look like that is "worthy" of the gospel of Christ?.

**27b-28a Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel**  
<sup>28</sup> **without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.**

- "Stand firm in the One Spirit, striving together as one..."
- A conduct of life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ is **evidenced** by:
  - A ONENESS in the Spirit
  - A Striving TOGETHER AS ONE. Or "contending as ONE.."
- Our ONENESS is a SIGN to the world.
- **Taking it back to Jesus. John 17:**
  - **20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,
  - **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
  - **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—
  - **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
  - **13** "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

**29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.**

- It has been granted to us to:
  - Believe in him
  - But also to suffer for him

- This is a conduct that produces a unity that can stand under the highest levels of pressure from the world.

**2:1-5 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

- “if” would make more sense if translated, “Since” or “as indeed is the case”
  - TPT- “Look at how much encouragement<sup>[a]</sup> you’ve found in your relationship with the Anointed One! You are filled to overflowing with his comforting love...”
  - Paul these amazing privileged gifts of grace are meant to empower us toward being ONE with one another!
- THE POWER OF HUMILITY.
  - **Free us to** live a life that reflects the nature and unity of Father-Son-Spirit.
  - **Frees us from** living in “selfish ambition” (self-promotion) and “vain conceit” (pride-filled opinions).
    - Which means these attitudes must be **put to death** in us... with no treaties or compromises.
  - Remember in Paul’s schema of transformation... we have a role to play.
    - Romans 13 <sup>14</sup> But **put on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
    - Through Grace, the Holy Spirit has revived the flicker of Jesus’ majestic humility in our hearts.
    - Through that grace we are empowered to take intentional, deliberate, disciplined action toward putting on this attitude of humility.
  - **What are we to do?** How do we put HUMILITY on?
    - Value others above yourselves
    - Don’t look to your own interests alone
    - Look closely to the needs and interests of one another before your own

**VS. 6-11 Jesus the ultimate example of HUMILITY.**

- Vs 6 Rather, he willingly assumed certain self-limitations... being made human... born into flesh and blood... in time...
- V7 “he made himself nothing”
  - Taking on the role as a suffering servant
  - Being made in human likeness... bound in time...flesh and blood... with hunger, thirst, and mortality
  - Obedient to death on a cross
  - Becoming a sacrifice for sin!
  - 2 Cor 6.<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Like Jesus... we must be put to death- the areas of our sin nature- so that the life of Christ (HIS HUMILITY) can rise within us in greater maturity and power.