

Series "Joy In Christ"
"Being Like-Minded"
Philippians 2:1-4
Part-7

From Circumstances to People! **"Joy Despite People!"**

Philippians 1 – Joy In Living: (Partakers of Christ)
Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Mind – 16 times in his letter.
What Paul knew (Mind) anchored his life during the storms!

The focus in Philippians 1 is "Jesus Christ."
Now, in Philippians 2, it is "Others" and to Serve and Sacrifice

Philippians 2 - Joy In Serving: (People of Christ)
(Unity Is The Highest Expression In Christian Conduct)

"Joy Despite People!" Philippians 2:3

Philippians 2 - Joy In Serving: (Submissive Mind)
Right Attitudes, Right Theology, Right Models

Being Like-Minded: Philippians 2:1–4
The Exaltation Of Jesus: Philippians 2:5–11
The Marks Of Humble Service: Philippians 2:12–18
Examples Of Humility: Philippians 2:19–30

Thought Of Our Passage: "Through Christ, Believers Have Been Given Everything Necessary To Have Joy And Unity In Serving Jesus Christ."

- 1. Verse 1 Conditions For Joy:**
- 2. Verses 2-4 Nature Of Joy:**

1. Verse 1 Conditions For Joy:

Philippians 2:1 Therefore

When we see the **"Therefore we ask what is the therefore, therefore?"**

Context - We left off with a teaching on Doctrine.

Verses 12-26 Then in **Philippians 1:27** Paul went into the Christian Duty,

if - there are **four "If"** conditional clauses in **Verse 1** that assume the reality of the statement. So, the word **"if"** really says, *"since", or "in view of the fact."*
"Yes, we have!" "Of course we have!" "Certainly we have!"

If therefore there is

So literally Paul is saying "Since this is so there is encouragement in Christ, Since, there is consolation of love, Since, there is fellowship of the Spirit, Since, there is affection and compassion..."

Four Truths: Because These Things Are True, We Have Unity In Christ: Unity/Conduct

1. Since There Is Encouragement In Christ:

if (since) there is any encouragement in Christ, encouragement –

This term **encourage** or **support**, came to be used in architecture.

It was to support, as with a bracket to the cornice or part of the arch.

*(This **first truth** is based on our relationship to Jesus Christ.)*

2. Since There Is Consolation (Comfort) Of Love:

if there is any consolation of love, (comfort),

*(The **second truth** is us receiving God's love.)*

*Do we have His love; do we sense He loves and cares about us! **2***

Corinthians 1:3

2 Corinthians 5:14; John 13:34-35

3. Since There Is Fellowship (Communion) Of The Spirit:

if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13

Fellowship – Greek *koinonia*, joint partnership, brought by the Holy Spirit.

*(This **third truth** we have this oneness with God through the Holy Spirit.)*

Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:22-23

4. Since There Is Affection And Compassion:

if any affection and compassion,

*(This **fourth truth** is the reality of love for other Christians.)*

1 John 3:14-15

affection (Bowels and mercy)

The term **bowels** - is the inner organs, the guts of the body, which speak of the seat of human **emotions**.

compassion (mercy) "mercies"

Pointed to the outward deeds of mercy caused by the inner concern, deep feelings. (outward deeds)

Changed Hearts lead to changed Hands:

2. Verses 2-4 Nature Of Joy:

Philippians 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

make my joy complete

Literally - *"Fill full my joy" Paul's cup of joy will be full, if the Philippians will only keep on having unity of thought and actions.*

- 1. Verse 1 encouragement in Christ, Means Verse 2 being of the same mind**
- 2. Verse 1 consolation of love, Means Verse 2 maintaining the same love**
- 3. Verse 1 fellowship of the Spirit, Means Verse 2 being united in spirit**
- 4. Verse 1 affection and compassion, Means Verse 2 being intent on one purpose**

Paul Describes Four Ways God's Love Is Manifested with our brothers and sisters:

1. by being of the same mind, (like minded)

It is the idea *"to keep on thinking the same thing. It is the idea of not being out of key."* **Philippians 4:2 (Verse – 1 encouragement in Christ,)**

2. maintaining the same love, We must love those and that which God loves. (Mutual affection) **(Verse – 1 consolation of love)**

3. united in spirit, (one accord) Literally means *"Joint souls, knit together."* Concept of a chain, how each link makes up the whole. **(Verse 1 fellowship of the Spirit)**

4. intent on one purpose. (Of one mind, the term mind is used four times in five verses.) Literally - *"thinking constantly the one thing, unity aims and goals"*
That one thing is explained in **Philippians 2:5** of having the self-less mind of Christ. **Philippians 3:14**

Philippians 2:3

Paul Gives Three Steps To Safeguard Our Unity and Harmony:

Step #1 To Unity and Harmony Is A Humble Mind: Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind

Negative - selfishness – (Strife)

Party spirit. Politicking. Scheming, manipulating. Party spirit. **James 4:1-4 (NLT)**

Negative - empty conceit, vain glory, literally "*Self-Esteem, Self-promotion*"
Vainglory - just means "*Empty glory.*" inside it is empty. **Galatians 6:14; 3 John 9**

Positive - humility of mind – always used in a negative sense, "*groveling, scraping ground*" but through Christ, became a quality attitude, of lowliness, Forgetting self!

Romans 12:3

Step #2 To Unity and Harmony Is Putting Others Before Yourself: regard one another as more important than yourselves;

This requires a new nature. We are all selfish by nature.

Positively, believers should have a high opinion of others.

Jesus said to the competitive disciples: Matthew 20:26-28
To a Christian, the way up must always be the way down:

Step #3 To Unity and Harmony Concern For Others:

Philippians 2:4 do not merely look out

The verb "**look**" English word "scope",

It means to keep one's eye constantly focused on an object. (Yourself)

for your own personal interests,

First, a believer should look not only "on his own things."

but also for the interests of others.

"**but**" (emphatic), Showing the contrast between selfishness and selflessness.

He should ask: *What are the needs of my brother?*

Romans 15:1-2; Philippians 2:20-21

We may have lost our joy because we are selfish!

Application:

- 1. Encouragement In Christ** Means Being Of The Same Mind; **Consolation Of Love** Means Maintaining The Same Love; **Fellowship Of The Spirit** Means Being United In Spirit; **Affection And Compassion** Means Being Intent On One Purpose.
- 2. The Safeguard For Our Unity and Harmony:** A Humble Mind, Putting Others Before Yourself, And Concern For Others.