

1. In Relationships - Phil. 2:1-4

1. An if-then clause (**verse 1**)
 2. Four conditions:
 - encouragement - of His unity
 - comfort - of His love
 - sharing - in His Spirit
 - tenderness and compassion - in that Spirit
 3. We find an endless supply of encouragement from Him
Rea -connection with Him - as in “abide” in Him
 4. We share in the Spirit
Rea -believers are united to the Spirit - at salvation - but then we need be continuously “filed” with the Spirit
 5. So verse 1 is the “if” then **verse 2** is the “then” part
 - be like-minded
 - be of the same love
 - be one in spiritRea -(attitude - demeanor - heart)
 - be of one mind
 6. Being like-minded does not mean united even at the cost of truth
 - mutual love
 - mutual concern and compassion
 - from the heartRea -not united around a cause (American Cancer Society) or a philosophy (Republicans vs Democrats)
 7. Actions flow from our mindedness (verse 2)
 - do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceitRea -“vain” conceit is “empty” conceit
 8. Instead of conceit - value others above yourself (**verse 4**)
 - not looking to your own interests (verse 4) but that of othersRea -what a wonderful thing the church would be if we thought of the interests of others... first
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. He is pleading with them to look at the needs/ interests of others
 2. Selfishness can be a dreadful problem
 - even though God wants you to have strong confidence and self-esteem
 3. “Deny yourself” - who said those words?
 4. Doesn’t this imply that Paul saw their need as unity and selfish-mindedness?

II. By Example - Phil. 2:5-11

1. Have the mindset of Christ (**verse 5**)
 - A. The “same” mind as Christ
 - B. The example is what Christ did - **verse 6**
2. He was equal with God but did not hang onto that
 - to be used for His own advantage

- Rea -He could have used His “position” for His advantage
3. But He humbled Himself (**verse 7**)
- A. Made Himself nothing - “instead”
- B. And that took on the form of human likeness - the nature of a servant
- Rea C. “Human likeness” and “servant” are the same thing
- Rea 4. Important to note the “form” of his humility - what form of humility will you take on?
5. Then how far will humility go? - all the way to death
-and what “form” will death take? - the death of a cross (the cruelest “form” of death)
- Rea -note the word “even” the death of a cross
6. Therefore God exalted Him (**verse 9**)
- to the highest place
- gave Him a name above all others
7. The result of which is that every knee bows (**verse 10**)
- in heaven and earth
8. Knees bow (verse 10) and tongues confess (**verse 11**)
- Rea -confess what? That He is Lord
- Rea -so it was through the cross (humility) that Jesus rose to His exaltation
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Tracing Jesus’ humility... left heaven > became human > experienced death > what type death? - the cruelest type > the cross
2. It is no accident that the words “servant” and “service” are used over and over again in the New Testament - it is also no accident that we pass over these ideas - discuss
3. Jesus came to “seek and serve”
4. Jesus’ humility was held up as example of what our humility should be (to the Philippians)
5. Jesus’ washed feet - then said “I’ve given you an example”

III. In Lifestyle - Phil. 2:12-15

1. You (now) work out your own salvation (**verse 12**)
- Rea -does he mean just as Jesus worked out His?
- note, with “fear and trembling” - out of respect for God
- Rea -a servant serves - if you’re not serving, are you really a servant?
2. Fear and trembling - not a casual Christianity
- Rea -this is serious stuff
3. Why? Because it is God who works in you to do His will (**verse 13**)
- through us He does His “good purpose”
4. Do all this without grumbling or arguing (**verse 14**)
- Rea -grumbling and arguing speaks to character - and relationship with God. In other words, can you be right with God and be also grumbling and arguing?
- do everything this way
5. So that you will be blameless and pure - children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation (**verse 15**)
- Rea -do you think our generation is warped and crooked? - this what is the solution?
6. Shine like “stars” in the sky
- be the “light” of the world - Mt. 5:14

Rea -if this world is dark -that just means we are called to be stars

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Churches are not known for love, - they ARE known for splits
 - most new churches are started not out of the sincere urge to see people saved, but a unwillingness to get along with others in the church
2. The key to getting along is “humility”
 - if Jesus can be humble, then so can I
3. We live in a self-centered world - every thing is about “having it our way” and “self-actualization” - churches today are trending to a “be all you can be” mindset vs a humble “servant” mindset
4. If the world cannot look to the church and see humility and service where can they see it?

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