

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

# PHILIPPIANS

Lesson 4: Have the Mind of Christ  
Philippians 2:1-16

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. According to the chart on Slide 10, the problem that is discussed of Philippians 2 comes from (a) within the church, (b) from outside the church, or (c) within individual Christians?
2. What are the four blessings from Christ named in Philippians 2:1?
3. What is the Christian answer to "strife" or "vainglory" in Philippians 2:3?
4. According to Slide 26, what brings you JOY in your life?
5. Who does Paul use as his main example of humility in this chapter?
6. In Philippians 2:6, Jesus is (a) less than, (b) more than or (c) equal with God.
7. In Philippians 2:8, Jesus humbled himself and became \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is the only verse from the Old Testament quoted in this section?
9. According to Philippians 2:15, we should shine \_\_\_\_\_.
10. According to Philippians 2:16, in the day of Christ, God wants you to (a) rejoice or (b) be ashamed.

Paul exhorted the church to stay focused and committed to the proclamation of the gospel.

### **Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:  
that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind striving together  
for the faith of the gospel;

It takes unity of purpose  
to live the gospel.  
This unity is difficult to  
achieve and easy to lose.

### **Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the  
gospel of Christ:  
that whether I come and see you, or else be absent,  
I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind striving together  
for the faith of the gospel;

This verse sets the theme to this epistle.

### **Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:  
that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind striving together  
for the faith of the gospel;

In Chapters 2 to 4,  
Paul exposes three  
obstructions to this  
unity, and the remedy  
to those obstructions.

### **Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the  
gospel of Christ:  
that whether I come and see you, or else be absent,  
I may hear of your affairs,  
**that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind striving together  
for the faith of the gospel;**


## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.



CHAPTER

3



CHAPTER

4



## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.



Have the *MIND* of Christ

CHAPTER

3



CHAPTER

4





## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.



Have the *MIND* of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:  
False doctrines that frustrate or  
misuse the grace that is in Christ.



CHAPTER

4



## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.

Have the **MIND** of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:  
False doctrines that frustrate or  
misuse the grace that is in Christ.

Have the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ

CHAPTER

4

## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.

Have the **MIND** of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:  
False doctrines that frustrate or  
misuse the grace that is in Christ.

Have the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ

CHAPTER

4

Within individual Christians:  
Lack of trust in God resulting in a  
fearful and uncharitable existence.

## THE PROBLEM

## THE REMEDY

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:  
Rivalries and worldly ambitions  
that set people against each other.

Have the **MIND** of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:  
False doctrines that frustrate or  
misuse the grace that is in Christ.

Have the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ

CHAPTER

4

Within individual Christians:  
Lack of trust in God resulting in a  
fearful and uncharitable existence.

Have the **PEACE** of Christ

We now begin Chapter 2:

**Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE**

**Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST**

**Chapter 3: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

**Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

There are 5 parts to this section:

## Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (1-4)
2. Christ's Example of Humility (5-16)
3. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)
4. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)
5. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Paul begins with four blessings from Christ that he offers every Christian:

### **Philippians 2:1**

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ,  
if any comfort of love,  
if any fellowship of the Spirit,  
if any bowels and mercies,

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Our **consolation in Christ** is the relief Jesus brings to our heart and mind that soothes the injuries of life.

### Philippians 2:1

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any **consolation in Christ**,  
if any comfort of love,  
if any fellowship of the Spirit,  
if any bowels and mercies,



## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Is there a greater **comfort** than to know you are loved by your heavenly Father?

### Philippians 2:1

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ,  
if **any comfort of love**,  
if any fellowship of the Spirit,  
if any bowels and mercies,

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Our God is the God of consolation and the God of all comfort.

### Philippians 2:1

<sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any **consolation in Christ**,  
if **any comfort of love**,  
if any fellowship of the Spirit,  
if any bowels and mercies,

### Romans 15:5

<sup>5</sup> Now **the God of patience and consolation** grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

### 2 Corinthians 1:3

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, **and the God of all comfort**;

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

What greater companionship could be found than the fellowship we share with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

### Philippians 2:1

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if **any fellowship of the Spirit**, if any bowels and mercies,

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Who could measure the depths of **mercy** he has received from God?

### Philippians 2:1

<sup>1</sup> *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if **any bowels and mercies,***

### Lamentations 3:22-23

<sup>22</sup> *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*  
<sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Seeing that these things flow from the heart of Christ to us, they should flow through us to one another. This brings joy to the heart of God!

### Philippians 2:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
- <sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

Being likeminded doesn't mean that each member should act and think just like the other. That is how cults are born!

This unity comes when every member agrees with Christ.

### Philippians 2:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ,  
if any comfort of love,  
if any fellowship of the Spirit,  
if any bowels and mercies,
- <sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy,  
that ye be likeminded,  
having the same love,  
*being of one accord,  
of one mind.*

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

But when church members try to advance their own positions in the congregation by climbing over each other, this unity is lost.

### Philippians 2:3a

<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;*



## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

But when church members try to advance their own positions in the congregation, stepping on each other to climb higher, this unity is lost.

### Philippians 2:3a

<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;*

#### **STRIFE:**

Exertion or contention for superiority.

#### **VAINGLORY:**

Exclusive vanity excited by one's own performances; empty pride; undue elation of mind.

Webster's 1812 Dictionary



## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

The cure for strife and rivalries is humility.

### Philippians 2:3

<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;  
but in lowliness of mind  
let each esteem other better than themselves.*

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

J esus first,

O thers second,

Y ourself last.

### Philippians 2:3

<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;  
but in lowliness of mind  
let each esteem other better than themselves.*

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

What is good for YOU  
must be less important  
to you than what is  
good for EVERYONE.

### **Philippians 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things,  
but every man also on the things of others.

## A. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (2:1-4)

What is good for YOU  
must be less important  
to you than what is  
good for EVERYONE.

**1 Corinthians 13:5**  
[Love] seeketh not her  
own...

### **Philippians 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things,  
but every man also on the things of others.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)


The humility needed to ensure unity was perfectly embodied by Jesus. It is his example that Paul calls upon the church to embrace.

### **Philippians 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you,  
which was also in Christ Jesus:

We have reached the second section:

## Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (1-4)
-  2. **Christ's Example of Humility** (5-16)
3. Paul's Example of Humility (17, 18)
4. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)
5. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Paul takes us back to the beginning when the Son of God coexisted with the Father. As John 1:1 says, “the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He was in “the form of God.”

### **Philippians 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the **form** of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

It is not robbery to take something that is already yours.

### Philippians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God,  
**thought it not robbery** to be equal with God:



## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

It is not robbery to take something that is already yours.

### **Philippians 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God,  
**thought it not robbery** to be equal with God:

When Jesus said that God was his Father, he was asserting his equality with God.

### **John 5:18**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Equal = ἴσος isos  
equal, in quantity or  
quality

### **Philippians 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be **equal** with God:

When Jesus said that God was his Father, he was asserting his equality with God.

### **John 5:18**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself **equal** with God.

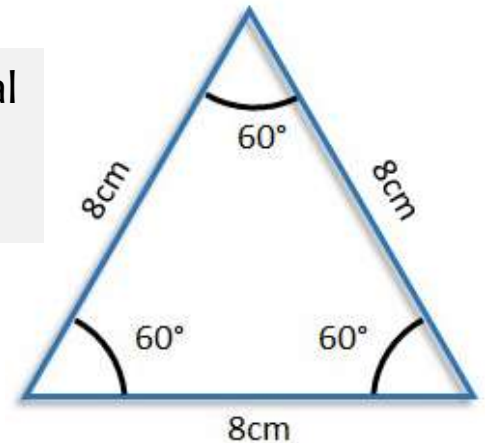
## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Equal = ἴσος isos  
equal, in quantity or  
quality

### Philippians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God,  
**thought it not robbery** to be equal with God:

An **isosceles** triangle has two equal sides and two equal angles across from them.



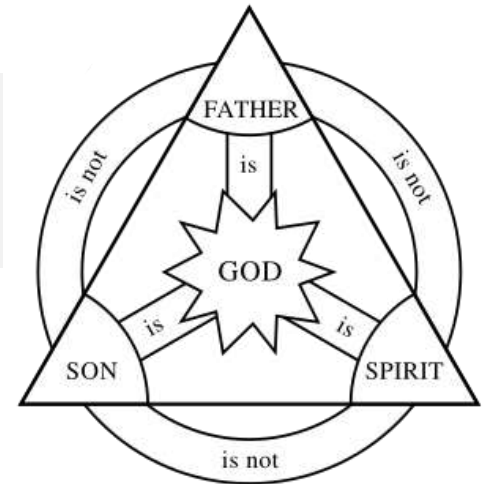
## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Equal = ἴσος isos  
equal, in quantity or  
quality

### Philippians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be **equal** with God:

The equality of the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit is illustrated in  
“The Trinity Shield.”



## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

The Son of God came down from his heavenly throne and clothed himself in the likeness of humanity. He came to serve, not to be served.

Now we read verses 6 and 7 together.

### **Philippians 2:6-7**

- 6 Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- 7 But made himself of no reputation,  
and took upon him the form of a servant,  
and was made in the likeness of men:

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

The Lord's *humility* was made manifest by his *obedience*. This is the mind of Christ.

### Philippians 2:8

<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man,  
**he humbled himself,**  
**and became obedient** unto death,  
even the death of the cross.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

He allowed himself to become mortal so he could be offered as a sacrifice for our sins.

### **Philippians 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

### **Hebrews 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

The Lord's obedience led to his exaltation and established his authority over all creation.

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

- <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
- <sup>11</sup> And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Following the example set by Jesus, we should also seek the kind of exaltation that only God can give.

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

- <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
- <sup>11</sup> And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **1 Peter 5:6**

- <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

This is the only reference from the Old Testament in this epistle.

### Philippians 2:9-11

- <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
- <sup>11</sup> And *that* **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Isaiah 45:23

- <sup>23</sup> I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Now, with the example of Christ fresh on our minds, Paul exhorts the church to a higher plane of living.

### **Philippians 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved,  
as ye have always obeyed,  
not as in my presence only,  
but now much more in my absence,  
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

For the second time in this letter, Paul emphasizes that our obedience must be to Christ alone.

### Philippians 2:12

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved,  
as ye have always obeyed,  
**not as in my presence only,**  
but now much more in my absence,  
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

“Working out” does not *create* muscles; it *develops* them to the point they are noticeable.

### Philippians 2:12

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved,  
as ye have always obeyed,  
**not as in my presence only,**  
but now much more in my absence,  
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

“Working out” does not *create* muscles; it *develops* them to the point they are noticeable.

### Philippians 2:12

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved,  
as ye have always obeyed,  
**not as in my presence only,**  
but now much more in my absence,  
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

To “work out your own salvation” is to “exercise” yourself “unto godliness” (1 Tim. 4:7). This makes your salvation – and the fact that you belong to Christ – visible to others.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

The desire you have to please God does not come from within you. It comes from God.

### **Philippians 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

“It is the grace of God which inclines the will to that which is good: and then enables us to perform it, and to act according to our principles.”

Matthew Henry

### Philippians 2:13

<sup>13</sup> For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.



## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Because it is God at work in us to obey him, we must be careful not to murmur against the Spirit as the children of Israel murmured against Moses.

### **Philippians 2:14-15**

- <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- <sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Rebuke from the world is inevitable, but let us not give ammunition to our enemies, neither give God cause to be displeased with us.

### Philippians 2:14-15

- <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
<sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, **without rebuke**, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

### Psalm 38:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, **rebuke me not** in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.  
<sup>2</sup> For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Christians who do not put on the mind of Christ will be just as crooked and perverse as the unbelievers around them.

### Philippians 2:14-15

- <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
<sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, **in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,** among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

### Deuteronomy 32:5

- <sup>5</sup> They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not *the spot* of his children: *they are a perverse and crooked generation.*

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

But those who put on the mind of Christ will as a light in a dark place.

### **Philippians 2:14-15**

- <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
<sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**

### **Matthew 5:16**

- <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Live only for yourself and you be ashamed when you stand before the Lord.

Live for Christ and you will have a life worth living, and meet him with rejoicing.

This is the great reward of a life lived in humble obedience to Christ.

### **Philippians 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

## B. Christ's Example of Humility (2:5-16)

Live only for yourself and you be ashamed when you stand before the Lord.

Live for Christ and you will have a life worth living, and meet him with rejoicing.

This is the great reward of a life lived in humble obedience to Christ.

### **Philippians 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

### **1 John 2:28**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Having shown us the example of Christ, Paul will next show that he himself abides by the ideals he preaches:

## Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. Paul's Exhortation to Humility (1-4)
2. Christ's Example of Humility (5-16)
3. **Paul's Example of Humility** (17, 18)
4. Timothy's Example of Humility (19-24)
5. Epaphroditus's Example of Humility (25-30)



## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to the chart on Slide 10, the problem that is discussed of Philippians 2 comes from (a) within the church, (b) from outside the church, or (c) within individual Christians?
2. What are the four blessings from Christ named in Philippians 2:1?
3. What is the Christian answer to "strife" or "vainglory" in Philippians 2:3?
4. According to Slide 26, what brings you JOY in your life?
5. Who does Paul use as his main example of humility in this chapter?
6. In Philippians 2:6, Jesus is (a) less than, (b) more than or (c) equal with God.
7. In Philippians 2:8, Jesus humbled himself and became \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is the only verse from the Old Testament quoted in this section?
9. According to Philippians 2:15, we should shine \_\_\_\_\_.
10. According to Philippians 2:16, in the day of Christ, God wants you to (a) rejoice or (b) be ashamed.

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.





**W†WH.org**