

# Philippians Series

Lesson #037

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# Putting Others Before Self Philippians 2:1-4



**Php. 1:29, “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,**

**Php. 1:30, “having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.” [NKJV]**

**Php. 4:1, “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren,  
my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”**

**Php. 1:5, “for your financial partnership in the gospel ministry from the first day until now,”**

**Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”**

**Phil. 4:14, “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.”**

**Php. 4:15, “Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.”**

**Php. 4:16, “For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.”**

- 1. Numerous passages exhorting them to be unified, not fragmented, divided, competing with one another, attacking one another, belittling one another. Php. 1:27; 2:21: “seek their own,” and several exhortations to unity (Php. 3:16; Php. 4:2)**
- 2. Problems with complaining and arguing, Php. 2:14.**
- 3. Problems with inordinate competition between some preaching the gospel (Php. 1:16, 17), the Judaizers with their legalism (Php. 3:2).**
- 4. Some Paul identified as “enemies of the cross of Christ ... whose god is their belly ... who set their mind on earthly things.” (Php. 3:17–18)**

**Php. 2:1, “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,**

**Php. 2:2, “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

**Php. 2:3, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**

**Php. 2:4, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” [NKJV]**

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**Matt. 4:3, “Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘**if**  
You are the Son of God, command that these stones become  
bread.’ ”**

**Php. 2:1**, “**Therefore since** there is any consolation in Christ, **since** any comfort of love, **since** any fellowship of the Spirit, **since** any affection and mercy,

**Php. 2:2**, “fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

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**Php. 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,” [NKJV]**

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**What follows the “therefore” is the command “fulfill my joy by being unified.”**

**Php. 1:27, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that ... I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,**

**Php. 1:28, “and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.” [NKJV]**

Php. 2:1, “**Therefore** if there is any consolation in Christ, **if** any **comfort** of love, **if** any **fellowship** of the Spirit, **if** any **affection** and **mercy**,” [NKJV]

παράκλησις *paraklēsis*  
fem sing nom  
encouragement,  
exhortation, appeal,  
comfort, consolation  
~NIDNTT

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παραμύθιον *paramuthion*  
neut sing nom  
comfort,  
encouragement,  
consolation, alleviation

**Acts 9:31, “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”**

**Acts 15:31, “When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.”**

**Rom. 15:5, “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,”**

**2 Cor. 1:4–7; 7:4, 7, 13.**

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comfort,  
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**κοινωνία *koinōnia*** fem sing nom  
partnership in achieving a common  
goal, participation; society;  
fellowship

Php. 2:1, “**Therefore if** there is any consolation in Christ, **if** any comfort from love, **if** any fellowship produced by the Spirit, **if** any affection and mercy,” [NKJV]

*σπλάγχνον splagchnon*

neut plur nom

Literally, entrails;

Figuratively, heart, affection;

hence as the seat of emotion, the heart, love

*οἰκτιρμός oiktirmos*

masc plur nom (m)

BDAG: display of

concern over

another's misfortune,

pity, mercy,

compassion

**The emphasis in all of these descriptions relate to the care, concern, comfort which we have been given in Christ.**

**God's grace in action has provided this comfort and care to all of us, and none of us deserve it.**

**Therefore, there is no basis at all for superiority, for arrogant ambition, or inordinate competition in the body of Christ.**

**We are all to serve one another from humility and concern for others more than self.**

Php. 2:2, “**fulfill** my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.” [NKJV]

πληρόω *plēroō*

2 plur aor act impera

to fill; fulfill; fill, complete,  
fulfil, accomplish, carry out

Php. 2:2, “**fulfill** my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.” [NKJV]

πληρόω *plēroō*

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to fill; fulfill; fill, complete, fulfil, accomplish, carry out

χαρά *chara*

fem sing acc

joy; be glad, rejoice; BDAG: the experience of gladness; a state of joy

## **Key verses on joy:**

**Matt. 2:10, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.”**

**Matt. 25:21, “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ”**

**John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”**

## **Key verses on joy:**

**John 16:22, “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”**

**John 16:24, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”**

**Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”**

Php. 2:2, “**fulfill** my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.” [NKJV]

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to fill; fulfill; fill, complete, fulfil, accomplish, carry out

φρονέω *phroneō*

2 plur pres act

subj

to be wise, to think

χαρά *chara*

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love; the kind of love God demonstrated at the cross; i.e., a grace-producing love to others who do not deserve it

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σύμψυχος *sumpsuchos*

masc plur nom

united, as one soul,  
united in their thoughts  
and motivations

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masc plur nom

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united in their thoughts  
and motivations

φρονέω *phroneō*

pres act part masc plur nom

to think, judge, give one's  
mind to, set one's mind on,  
be minded

**Rom. 8:5, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”**

**Php. 3:19, “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”**

**Rom. 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”**

**Rom. 12:16, “Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”**

**Rom. 15:5, “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,”**

**2 Cor. 13:11, “Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”**

**Php. 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”**

## **What do we learn:**

- 1. Our new identity, the identity of the “new man,” being “in Christ,” we have received grace, unmerited favor, none is better or worse. There is no basis for pride, or arrogance, or selfish ambition, or self-serving.**
- 2. As a result, we should think in terms of unity—one minded. And if that is not possible, there must be division at times.**

**1 Cor. 11:18, “For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.**

**1 Cor. 11:19, “For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.”**

**Php. 2:3, “*Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**

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