

Philippians Series

Lesson #038

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Humility

Philippians 2:3–6



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

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

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

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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

χαρά *chara*

fem sing acc

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

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

φρονέω *phroneō*

2 plur pres act

subj

to be wise, to think

χαρά *chara*

fem sing acc

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

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

φρονέω *phroneō*
2 plur pres act
subj
to be wise, to
think

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

σύμψυχος *sumpsuchos*
masc plur nom
united, as one soul,
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

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.**

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]

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

μηδείς *mēdeis*
neut sing acc
(indef)
In the neuter:
nothing

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

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

**μηδείς *mēdeis*
neut sing acc
(indef)
In the neuter:
nothing**

***Not thinking according to
selfish ambition or conceit ...***

Php. 2:3, “Not thinking according to selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” [RD]

**μηδείς *mēdeis*
neut sing acc
(indef)
In the neuter:
nothing**

**ἐριθεία *eritheia*
fem sing acc
selfish ambition,
selfishness, strife,
contentiousness,
undue
competitiveness**

**κενοδοξία
kenodoxia
fem sing acc
vanity, conceit,
excessive
ambition;
Illusion,
delusion, error**

Arrogance Skills



Self-absorption

RESULTS

Self-pity,
Self-admiration,
Self-love,

Self-, not God-confidence,
Self-righteousness

Self-indulgence

Self-justification

Self-deception

Self-deification

Php. 2:3, “Not thinking according to selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” [RD]

**ταπεινοφροσύνη *tapeinophrosunē*
fem sing dat
humility**

Acts 20:18, “And when they had come to him, he said to them: ‘You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,

Acts 20:19, “ ‘serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;

Acts 20:20, “ ‘how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,

Acts 20:21, “ ‘testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:22, “ ‘And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,’ ”

Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”

Col. 3:12, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;”

1 Pet. 5:5, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ ”

Php. 2:3, “Not thinking according to selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility of mind let each think others better than himself.” [RD]

**ταπεινοφροσύνη *tapeinophrosunē*
fem sing dat
humility**

**ἡγέομαι *hēgeomai*
pres mid part masc plur
nom
to think, consider,
count, regard**

Php. 2:3, “Nothing through selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility of mind let each think others better than himself.”
[RD]

ταπεινοφροσύνη *tapeinophrosunē*
fem sing dat
humility

ἡγέομαι *hēgeomai*
pres mid part masc plur
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to think, consider,
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ὑπερέχω *huperechō*
pres act part masc plur acc
to excel, exceed, be better
than

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

σκοπέω *skopeō*

**pres act part masc plur nom
to pay attention to; watch
closely; consider, or keep
thinking about**

What did we learn from these verses:

- 1. We should not have a way of thinking characterized by arrogance: self-absorption and self-love. These are incompatible with the new nature in Christ.**
- 2. The contrast is focusing on self vs. focusing on what is best for others. Always take the high road.**
- 3. An application of Lev. 19:18—“love your neighbor as yourself.”**

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

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**φρονέω *phroneō*
present active
imperative 2P
“to think, reason,
mental attitude”**

Php. 2:5, “Let this mental attitude be among yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,” [NKJV]

φρονέω *phroneō*

present active

imperative 2P

MajT has a present

passive 2P

**“to think, reason,
mental attitude”**

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

Php. 2:6, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,” [NKJV]

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**ὑπάρχω *huparchō*
present active participle
anarthrous adverbial
concessive participle,
“although existing
eternally”**

Php. 2:6, “who, though existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,”

**ὑπάρχω *huparchō*
present active participle
anarthrous adverbial
concessive participle,
“although He existed
eternally”**

**μορφή *morphē*
“form, outward
appearance, shape
or expression;
used of the nature
or essence of
something”**

Php. 2:6, “who, though existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,”

ἡγέομαι *hēgeomai*

aorist middle

indicative deponent 3S

**“to engage in an
intellectual process,
think, consider,
regard”**