

Philippians 2

Verse 1 If you have these things then... Paul pleads for unity in the church. If you don't you must be a tare. These are things that show evidence of a born again life. Look at them carefully. The early church must have seen them as distinguishing characteristics. Encouragement from being united with Christ (is Jesus drawing you to Himself)- do we get the vision for what it means to be born again, married to Christ, having his life in us? If that wouldn't encourage you what would? The greater the revelation of the destructiveness of sin, the greater the encouragement of being united with Christ. Does his love comfort you (persuade you)? Do you let it comfort you? Do you commune with the Holy Spirit personally and in others? Does He speak to your heart and through the word illuminating Scripture as to God's will for you presently? Is there a heart in you that is tender and full of compassion? The Word tells us that the LORD is full of compassion, His tender mercies are over all his works. Do you share that heart, or are you critical, judgmental, unsympathetic. 2Cor 1:5 Ro 8:9-11

Verse 2 If that verse 1 is descriptive of your walk then top off Paul's joy by being united in thought, love, spirit and purpose. Thought - understanding together the direction the Lord is leading and setting aside divisive thoughts that would pull you away from that direction. Love - the same love for God, for each other, for the will of God, for the lost. If we love the same things it is hard to be divided or build up animosities. One spirit - the Lord's of course, and the fruits of the Spirit. We should be a loving, gracious, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, gentle, self-controlled group as well as individuals. And our purpose should be one. Today each church tries to find a ministry or vision for their body. Isn't Paul saying that our purpose is obedience to the Father, as he goes on to explain? And if they have this oneness in Christ, Paul's joy is complete. That should be a source of great joy to us also, to see that we walk in unity. Ro 15:5,6

Verse 3 This was what Paul just accused some of the preachers of the Gospel of, 1:15,17. When we are the only one with a certain thought, instead of separating ourselves and insisting all conform, we should consider other's reasons carefully. If they don't seem to make sense, ask more questions. Really try to understand why the majority see a different perspective. Consider that they have something to say and that God has placed you with this group. If you still think it is unscriptural, ask the elders to consider it. Then unless it is a major issue, set it aside and seek to be in unity. If it is a major issue, trust the LORD that HE will show the body in his time. Be very careful of having a sense that you are more Spiritual, mature. Compare yourself with Jesus, not others in the body. Then you will see where you really are. That should humble us all. What the Bible is very clear on we can be too, but where there are different expressions and mysteries we should leave room for differing opinions in love.

Verse 4 Don't be so wrapped up in your own things that you don't see the need in others. If you have love for them you will consider their joys and pains as much as your own. Are we one in the Spirit? Is what hurts them hard for the whole body? What burdens them in prayer? Will you join with them? As we become a body like this imagine what a precious thing it will be. Ro 12:15-17

Verses 5,6 Here is what our attitude should be: nature or form – *morphe*- The external that is seen, that is a result of the inseparable inner qualities - in other words, exhibiting

the attributes of God. It is set in contrast with the next verse using the same word, form of a servant. First see that He is God and all that means but chooses to express that as a servant, the very nature being a servant. He will not hang on to his titles and position over all, but will set that aside to serve. In doing that, He relates this choice by taking a human form to express it. Eph 5:1,2

Verse 7 *kenoo* - set aside the form of God - the attributes that would keep him from inhabiting a body to be our example He did without for a time. If I had all knowledge of all time it would be impossible for me to show you how to live for I have access to something you do not. Jesus set aside all things that we do not have available to us so that He could show us the perfect human life as we could live it. He took our condition but without sin. He lived the Law to its very intent for us, without any thing not available to us. 1Tim 3:16

Verse 8 If you created man and knew how weak and frail and easily led astray, and then you were that, what else would you do but humble yourself and be completely obedient to the voice of your Father. This is the example set for us as to how to live as a man. Look at the history of man. Humble yourself and be completely obedient to the Father, even if it takes you to your death. Never assert your will or wisdom above His. That is Jesus' example in a word. Mk 1:35 Luke 6:12

Verse 9 And to the One who did that completely and totally, God exalted to the highest place and gave Him the highest title. He had this before but now He has it as a man, in our place. In a way He has something He did not have before, the personal experience of a man, a demonstration of righteousness in a human life, and now the title and authority Adam lost He regained to share with the redeemed. Da 7:13,14

Verse 10 This name of Lord, puts everything under Him. The God man Jesus is Lord over all. Everything in creation must bow. Wind and waves must obey. Foal of a donkey must yield its back. Knee of man must bend in worship recognizing his authority. Angels, too, must submit.

Verse 11 And to the glory of God the Father, everything that can speak must admit, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" Today the majority of mankind say to themselves, "I am lord." But one day they cannot help but say, "Jesus is Lord" for it will be painfully obvious to them that they have been deluding themselves. Remember how He got the name? He was the ultimate servant of God. What makes men truly great? Being a servant of the living God. You have the highest calling of any created being – to be a servant of God. May the Lord help us to realize what a high and holy privilege that calling is. John 13:12-17