



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Mind of Christ: Humility

APRIL 4, 2012

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed regardless of his circumstance and that they also must conduct their lives, strive and suffer in and for Christ. (Php 2:1-4 NASB)

“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” (2:1-2)

In Christ: Encouragement, Consolation, Fellowship, Affection, Compassion, Joy, Completeness, Love, Unity, Intent and One Purpose. Paul continues to share that there is joy in Christ. There is a unity in Christ. While Paul loves the believers in the Philippian church, he understand that any fellowship from time to time will have strife in the mist and that overcoming the strife requires love, unity, and one purpose. It’s keeping the main thing the main thing.

Paul challenges the church to be of one mind, that of Christ. While all may offer different gifts and abilities, and some may differ on minor issues, all are to be focused on the mind of Christ. How will that ‘same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose’ be demonstrated?

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (2:3-4)

The Mind of Christ: Humility. Paul shares that the believer’s motives will be pure and not be selfish or filled with conceit. Paul surfaces one of the biggest challenges in the church, not one of doctrine but of selfishness and pride. The remedy for this challenge is having a mind of Christ, one of humility and motives that place the importance of others at a higher level than ones selfish wants and prideful ways.

For Your Consideration:

- How have you found your interactions with other believers this past week? Did the interactions include love, unity of spirit, and intent on one purpose? The one purpose to serve and honor Christ?
- Do you get sidetracked on minor issues and lose your focus on Christ?
- Are you on this earth to serve or be served?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44