

HAVE THIS MIND AMONG YOURSELVES

I. Philippians 2:1-11

A. In the midst of a deadly pandemic, or any life-threatening crisis, the natural tendency of human beings is to take care of themselves first and then *others*. But if we are truly new creatures in Christ, have been born anew by His Spirit, then *others* take on a much higher priority. In our current crisis we've seen the worst and best of people. We've seen hoarders and heroes. We've seen gougers and givers. We've seen tight-fisted stinginess and amazing acts of compassion and kindness. We've heard hate-filled chants as well as inspiring songs of hope.

B. Sometimes it takes a calamity to separate the posers from the genuine article. On the Titanic there were those who willingly gave up their seats in lifeboats while others tried to manipulate their way into one. When riots break out during civil unrest, some become rescuers while others become looters.

C. Excuses are a dime a dozen. I'm sure the Priest and Levite had good excuses for bypassing the bludgeoned man on the Jericho Road. The Samaritan would've had the better reasons not to have gotten involved with a bleeding, naked, enemy. The Priest and Levite certainly owned better theologies. But the Samaritan had the better heart. Put another way, the Priest and Levite had the better orthodoxy; but the Samaritan had the better orthopraxy. Which character looked more like Jesus? Which character looked more like Jesus wants His church to look like?

D. When Paul wrote to the Philippians, they had very few problems. It's a far different letter than the one he wrote to the Galatians! Some believe Philippi was Paul's favorite church. He uses the word for *joy* sixteen times in this short letter. Paul confronts very little. Sure, there were a couple church ladies who struggled to get along but Paul addressed them tactfully and graciously. Part of what we're about to read is likely a credal hymn, recited or sung by the early church. Paul calls them up to a higher place...

E. Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV) begins with four IFs...

1) **V1: 1** *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, (if) any comfort from love, (if) any participation in the Spirit, (if) any affection and sympathy, (In other words, IF those noble qualities are genuinely possessed by you, let them lead to the following...)*

2) **V2: 2** *complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Togetherness of soul; one in Christ Jesus.)*

3) **V3-4: 3** *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (How many of you believe that's what God wants for us too? And not only during the current crisis! What are your neighbors, loved ones, coworkers, friends and strangers seeing and hearing from you these days? Have they seen bulldog tenacity or groundhog timidity?)*

4) So Paul very lovingly, and gently, and graciously needs to give Philippi a *why-and-what-for* to this higher calling for which he's extolling. He's challenging them. Paul puts forth the *Quintessential Exemplar*, and who is that? The very Son of God, the Second Person of the Godhead, the Galaxy Spinner, the Word made flesh. The One who went from throne to feeding trough to cross to tomb and back to His glorious throne!

5) V5-11: Next is the Credal Hymn: *5 Have this mind (This mindset, this togetherness of soul) among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, (Gk. Doulos) being born in the likeness of men. (This is Immanuel! God with us! Jesus: fully God and fully Man!) 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (He went to that cross willingly with our sin imputed upon Him!) 9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (This is the Gospel, the Good News! All knees will bow: some with songs of praise on their lips; but unfortunately others while weeping and gnashing their teeth.)*

II. Communion

A. Let's briefly visit 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NIV): *1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... (That's the Gospel...)*

B. Have you bowed your knees, has your tongue confessed, that Jesus Christ is Lord? Have you bowed and confessed merely because your head said or because your heart also said so? Is this indeed the Gospel upon which you have taken your stand? Is this Gospel of *first importance* to you, the Gospel upon which you've been saved? When it says, *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*, is it therefore true He has died for your sins? (May your answer be YES!) When you take the Bread & Cup, let that be your renewed and steadfast profession...

* Pray & Officiate Communion...

* For you who believe, who've been made alive in Christ, who've been brought out of darkness into His great light, live for Him! Live for Him by laying down your lives to serve others. If I challenged you to merely do so during this pandemic, I'd be selling you short. For the world has been in severe crisis mode since the First Couple sinned in the Garden. All calamities and natural disasters and horrible atrocities are mini cataclysms forewarning of the final judgment to come. A far worse calamity than Noah's is coming but a far better Ark is available. His name is Jesus! To pagans on Mars Hill Paul declared in Acts 17:30-31 (NASB) *30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man (Jesus) whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. Judgment is promised! But*

Hebrews 7:25 (NJKV) provides this recourse: 25 Therefore He (Jesus) is also able to *save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him*, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Jesus is praying for you to come to Him! Yield to Him! Make Him your all in all! For the rest of you, go to those bleeding beside the road, robbed by Satan, facing death and destruction, and show them Christ, show them His love...

* Closing Song - Mark & Dina...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV)

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NIV)

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

Acts 17:30-31 (NASB)

30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Communion - Westminster Confession of Faith

Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing of all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body.

- WCF, Paragraph 1, Chapter Chapter XXIX.

Video Clips & Important Articles

What Would Jesus Do? - Philippians 2:3-8 - Skip Heitzig (Full Sermon)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jG0QLJIFEUk>

Philippians 2:5-8 - Have the Mind of Christ - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHFssd24D2c>

Imitating the Incarnation - Philippians 2:3-11 - Tim Keller (Full Sermon)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuE117JAI4g>

Bonus Stuff

John 1:1-5 (NASB)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Colossians 1:15-17 (ESV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (ESV)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Romans 12:9-13 (AMP)

9 Love is to be sincere and active [the real thing--without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor; **11** never lagging behind in diligence; aglow in the Spirit, enthusiastically serving the Lord; **12** constantly rejoicing in hope [because of our confidence in Christ], steadfast and patient in distress, devoted to prayer [continually seeking wisdom, guidance, and strength], **13** contributing to the needs of God's people, pursuing [the practice of] hospitality.

Romans 15:1-7 (ESV)

1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. **3** For Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV)

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Luke 10:30-37 (NASB)

30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. **31** And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, **34** and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' **36** Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" **37** And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The Incarnation is the ultimate reason why the service of God cannot be divorced from the service of man."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*.