



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 11

Unity through Humility

Philippians 2:1-5, *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?*² *Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.* ³*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.* ⁴*Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.* ⁵*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.* (NLT)

Last couple of weeks we looked at the verse 1 and 2 about the four important aspect of motive for our spiritual unity, namely

- Consolation in Christ,
- Comfort of love,

- Fellowship of the spirit and
- Affection and mercy.

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

Four things from the above verse

- Being like minded
- Having same love,
- Being one accord in spirit and
- One mind

This week we will look at verses 3 to 5.

Verses 3 & 4 Apostle Paul writes to us about five things and three or negative and two are positive.

- Do nothing on selfishness
- Not according to vain glory
- Let each esteem others better
- Don't look for your interest alone
- Look for the interest of others

Let us look at these five things for tonight study and then how we can achieve them.



Do nothing on selfishness

We can see in our everyday life how the society has become so selfish. People all around are so selfish. The media and everything promotes only self.

Even in our churches the selfishness taken such a route and it is causing such havoc in our churches.

Galatians 5:20 list the work of the flesh in the list selfish ambition is also mentioned.

When Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth there were divisions it's caused because of the factions.

1 Corinthians 1:10-12, ¹⁰ *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* ¹¹ *For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.* ¹² *Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."*

There are divisions among the people of God because of their passion and zeal for God and for the sake of Gospel. But then when you take sides then it became ego and then it becomes promoting their idea slowly it becomes selfish ambition.

There is nothing wrong in following someone in faith but then your loyalty should be to the Lord and His church to the person.

But in our Tamil culture largely at the society people follow the politicians and cinema stars. They are so involved in their policies and become the followers of that particular leader or a star. What we have seen in the past there are people killing themselves for the sake of their ideas and their convictions about their leader.

Same thing crept into our churches; many so called Christians are loyal to their Pastors or leaders rather than Christ. It's extremely difficult to deal with when people are consumed by their own agenda, their own ministry, their own goal and objective.

Not according to vain glory

Proverbs 25:27, *“For men to seek their own glory is not glory”*

People are striving to be successful because they want to prove that they are successful since they are driven by their own selfish glory.

But the bible tells us that we should do everything for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17, *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

1 Corinthians 10:31, *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

If your goal in your employment is self-glory and self-exaltation, if you are driven by ambition instead of a

love for the glory of God, you are considered a fool in the sight of God.

This does not mean that you are to go about your work indifferent to a pursuit of excellence. God expects you to work diligently.

- But what is your motivation?
- What is your goal?

Proverbs 15:33, *The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honour is humility.*

If you don't humble yourself before others and before God then your success will be empty and meaningless. Selfish ambition drives you then you are an easy target to fall into sin. Today we see so many people do all kinds of things just to seek their glory in the process they lose their honesty and integrity.

Success for a Christian is when he fulfils the will of God faithfully in his life.

Jesus work was successful because He humbled Himself before His Father and carried out His will with diligence and submission. He did not seek His own glory, but humbled Himself in the service of others.

Let each esteem others better

Can you imagine the president of a big company esteeming a lowly, production-line labourer better than himself?

Can you imagine a professional football player or a cricketer considering an insignificant player of greater importance?

Can you imagine a President or Prime Minister or a Minister being more concerned with the comfort and happiness of his constituents than his own?

Can you imagine an Apostle should look on the members of the Church as being above his office, or that a pastor should consider his position less important than that of an usher?

Paul is telling us that we must learn to quit promoting ourselves and learn to respect the outstanding, brilliant gifts and ideas God has given to others.

Esteeming others above ourselves the attitude God wants Christians to develop as a basic approach to life, whether toward each other or toward the world. It can only come through dying to one's self, taking on God's nature and being filled with His mighty love.

Jesus spoke about this in a parable and then application to us.

Luke 14:7-14, *So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸“When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honourable than you be invited by him; ⁹and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” ¹²Then He also said to him who invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbours, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

Be humble you will be exalted.

Help those who can't help you back.

Colossians 4:1, *Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

Don't look for your interest alone

Look for the interest of others

Looking for your interest is another way of self-seeking.

The starting point for all happiness is shifting the focus away from you and yourself. When someone focuses on himself then that person is going to be miserable person. One will be happy only when he cares about the needs of people around himself.

Paul gives Timothy as an example for this point. **Philippians 2:20-21**, *"There is no one like Timothy for having a real interest in you; everyone else seems to be worrying about his own plans and not those of Jesus Christ"*

People are worrying about their own plans and aren't looking out for the interests of others. Most people are concerned with their own problems. And, that's why most people are unhappy with their lives.

Application

Philippians 2:5, ⁵*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

We need to have the same mind as Christ.

Match all the five points in the life of Christ then you and me will be able to match and compare ourselves with Christ.