

Philippians

CHAPTER 2:1-4

Lesson 5

In these four short verses in Philippians, Paul specifically addresses the believers at least five times. The dominating focus of the life of our Lord Jesus on earth was others. Because of others He came. Because of others He lived. Because of others He died. And, because of others, He lives forever to intercede for them (us). This week you will spend some time over-viewing Philippians chapter 2. In the midst of instructions to the believer, Paul presents the example set by Jesus Christ. But, before he begins, he reminds us of why we should follow Christ's example. Here, in the first four verses of Philippians 2, we are confronted with a challenge to look beyond ourselves and to the needs of others. May the Lord bless you as you study a true principle of J.O.Y. (Jesus first, Others second, You last).

Observation: Read Philippians Chapter 2

1. A key word in this chapter is *mind* or *like-minded*. If you have not already done so, mark these words in a distinctive way. List what chapter 2 teaches about the *mind* or being *like-minded*.

2. The word *therefore* is used six times in Philippians 2. *Therefore* represents a summary statement or a conclusion the author has arrived at. It is important to take note of terms of conclusion because they are like red flags provided by the author to get our attention, challenging us to stop and think about what has been said. Mark the occurrences of the word *therefore* and record the conclusion or statement that follows.

3. What has impressed you most as you read and meditated upon Philippians 2?

Read Philippians 2:1

1. Philippians 2:1 begins with the word *therefore*. This indicates that chapter 2 builds on what was written in chapter 1. Scan chapter 1 and describe the Christian life as it is presented by Paul.
2. Verse 1 lists four **realities** of the Christian life. The word *if*, as used in this verse, does not imply a possibility. It would be more accurate to use the word *since*. What are the four provisions believers **have** according to this verse?
3. The New Living Testament translates Philippians 2:1 as a rhetorical question: *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic?* Record some of the things Paul shared in chapter one that would answer these questions.
 - a. How would asking yourself the questions above help you when you are in a trial?

1.) What encouragement have you found in belonging to Christ?

2.) What comfort have you found from His love?

3.) What fellowship do you now have through His Spirit?

4.) How has belonging to Christ caused you to be more tender and sympathetic?

In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

- Psalm 94:19

Read Philippians 2:2

1. Verse two indicates that Paul's joy would be complete if the Philippians were united in four areas. List these areas of unity. In the next column, choose a word or phrase that shows the opposite of this unity.

	Areas of Unity	Opposites
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

2. Record what the following verses say about unity:
 - a. Psalm 133:1

 - b. John 17:21

 - c. Acts 4:32

 - d. 1 Corinthians 1:10

3. Unity is Christ's desire (John 17:21) as it was Paul's. How does knowing the importance of unity to the Lord inspire you to make it a priority in your life?

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...
- 1 Corinthians 12:13a

Read Philippians 2:3

1. Fill in the blanks writing Philippians 2:3 in your own words:

Don't be _____,

but instead be _____.

2. This verse is not a suggestion; it is a command. It is a verse that many do not take literally. How are we to practically apply this command to *esteem others better than ourselves*?

3. Define the word *esteem*.

Challenge: Look up other verses that contain the Greek word "hegeomai" (translated *esteem* in Philippians 2:3). What further understanding did you gain?

1. Summarize the kind of life that promotes unity.

a. What are some things that might hinder unity?

2. How has this lesson spoken to you about your choices in relating to other Christians?

*Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love,
being of one accord, of one mind.
- Philippians 2:2*

PHILIPPIANS

Chapter Two - Observation Worksheet

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, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me. ¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. ²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶ since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

HUMILITY

Humility	Scripture Reference
Necessary to the service of God	Micah 6:8
Christ is an example of humility	Matthew 11:29; Phil 2:5-8
Those who have humility are:	
Regarded by God	Psalms 138:6; Isaiah 66:2
Heard by God	Psalms 9:12; Psalm 10:17
Enjoy the presence of God	Isaiah 57:15
Delivered by God	Job 22:29
Lifted up by God	James 4:10
Exalted by God	Luke 14:11; Luke 18:14
Are greatest in God's kingdom	Matthew 18:4
Receive more grace	Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6
Upheld by honor	Proverbs 18:12; Proverbs 29:23
Saints should:	
Put on humility	Colossians 3:12
Be clothed with humility	1 Peter 5:5
Walk with humility	Ephesians 4:1-2
Beware of false humility	Colossians 2:18,23
Humble is the best way to be	Proverbs 16:19; Matthew 5:3
Examples of humility:	
Abraham	Genesis 18:27
Jacob	Genesis 32:10
Moses	Exodus 4:10
Joshua	Joshua 7:6
Gideon	Judges 6:15
David	1 Chronicles 29:14
Manasseh	2 Chronicles 33:12
Josiah	2 Chronicles 34:27
Job	Job 42:6
Isaiah	Isaiah 6:5
John the Baptist	Matthew 3:14
Centurion	Matthew 8:8