

Philippians 2

The Mature Christian Imitates Christ



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¹ 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, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

- **Philippians 2:1-2**

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

- Philippians 2:3-4

What the Philippians are doing:

- Encouragement in Christ
- Comfort of love
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Affection and compassion

Do these and add the following:

- One mind for the gospel
- One mind for each other
- Humility toward each other

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

- Philippians 2:5-6

⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- **Philippians 2:7-8**

The imitation of Christ
requires the emptying of self.

The emptying of self by Christ explained by Paul:

- Jesus is always God
- Jesus altered His nature
- Jesus emptied His human nature of glory

Our imitation of Christ really begins when we begin to empty ourselves of “self.”

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- John 6:38

The emptying of self requires us to
replace our will with God's will in
every area of our lives.

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **Philippians 2:9-11**

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

- Acts 4:12

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

- **Philippians 2:12-13**

Do all things without grumbling
or disputing;

- Philippians 2:14

Word Meanings

- **Grumbling**
 - Muttering, murmuring, complaining, whining
 - Poisons the atmosphere
 - Contagious

Word Meanings

- Grumbling
- **Disputings**
 - Questioning
 - Second guessing
 - Rebellion

¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

- Philippians 2:15-16

WORD MEANINGS

innocent = unmixed

¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. ¹⁸ You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

- Philippians 2:17-18

Two Examples of Maturity

- Timothy
 - From Lystra
 - Eunice and Lois
 - Timid, stomach issues
 - Commended to ministry (I Timothy 4:14)

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

- Philippians 2:19

²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

- Philippians 2:20-22

²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

- Philippians 2:23-24

Two Examples of Maturity

- Timothy
- **Epaphroditus**
 - Preached at Colossae
 - Sent by Philippian church
 - Fell ill in Rome

But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;

- Philippians 2:25

Epaphroditus

- Brother (Family)
- Fellow worker (Helper)
- Soldier (Carried the Fight)
- Messenger (Commissioner)
- Minister (Specifically Sent)

because he was longing for you all
and was distressed because you had
heard that he was sick.

- Philippians 2:26

27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.

- **Philippians 2:27-28**

²⁹ Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

- Philippians 2:29-30

Summary

- Stand Firm
- Imitate Christ
- Rejoice in Trial

LESSON

Ministry is never without trials

Trials in ministry are normal!

When you decide to move forward in Christ
that is when Satan will push back.

Rejoicing in trial signals that we may
have lost the physical battle **but we**
have won the spiritual war.