

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Philippians 2:1-11

Last time...following Jesus in the face of trouble and persecution

- the very core of a truly devoted follower of Jesus Christ as the Apostle Paul laid bare his heart regarding living or dying, leaving earth or staying on it
- an important reminder – suffering for His name's sake is part of being a follower of Jesus Christ

This time...having clearly established his all-in commitment to following Jesus, he now exhorts the church/us to do the same...with a right and acceptable mind set, a way of thinking that is not “natural” and not taught by the world

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

v1-2 If (by the grace of God) there is

- any consolation/solace in Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant (Son)
- any comfort of Godly love from the God of all comfort (Father)
- any fellowship/comm-union of the Spirit (Holy Spirit)
- any tenderness and mercy (from God and to the Body of Christ)
- if you are truly in a right relationship with the Living God and His people

(Then) fulfil my joy (for the Church):

- be likeminded...work together, be on the same wave length, not striving with each other or competing with each other
- having the same love...the love of God for each other
John 13:34-35 governing all relationships in the Body
- being of one accord...in unity and not divided
Always a primary concern for the Body of Christ: unity based on Truth
- of one mind...the same way of thinking

And just how does that

- likeminded-ness
- love
- unity
- one mind

happen?

v3-4 v2 happens by v1 being a lifestyle

v2 happens by the Body having the mind of the Head of the Body:
Consideration for others, thinking of others more than of one's self

Let nothing be done out of

- strife...contention, ill-will, competitive in-fighting
- vainglory...self-conceit, drawing attention to oneself, speaking and acting such as to make others think we are sooo spiritual

but (to the contrary, all things done) in

- lowliness of mind...humility, modesty
- esteeming/thinking of others better/before ourselves
- acting on what is in the best interest of others instead of what is in our best interest, especially when our best interest comes at the expense of others
- being others-centered (not natural) instead of self-centered (natural)

As the Holy Spirit has elsewhere instructed the Body of Christ

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly

Rom 12:16 *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Rom 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Eph 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Col 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

All in keeping (John 14:26) with what Jesus taught

Matt 22:36-40

Luke 6:31 *And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.* (aka The Golden Rule)

All in keeping with what Jesus did

v5 Let this mind, this way of thinking...v3-4...be in you as it was in Christ Jesus,
our Example i.e. as Jesus-kind, think like Jesus!

not strife

like the strife that repeatedly surfaced between the 12 when they competed
for who would be the greatest among them, which Jesus always
rebuked, in their best interests and in the best interest of the
Church He would build using them

Mark 9:33-37 first = servant of all

Luke 22:24-27 greatest = him that serves vs is served

As the Holy Spirit taught us in the Apostles' doctrine

1 Cor 6:1-8 better to take a wrong than to strive with brother

not vainglory

but rather the nature of Jesus Christ

1 Cor 13:4-5 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not;
charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not
behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily
provoked, thinketh no evil

John 7:18 *He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he
that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no
unrighteousness is in him.*

lowliness of mind

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I
will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of
me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest
unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is
light.*

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

others better/before Self

John 12:47 *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge
him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the
world.* (would He have been justified in doing)

Rom 5:8 so enemies might be reconciled to God

2 Cor 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin;
that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us
from this present evil world, according to the will of God
and our Father

Rom 12:9-10, 13-21

v6-8 This mind, this way of thinking being evidenced in Jesus' ministry in His 1st Coming... steps "down"

1. being/existing in the form/nature of God

Jesus possesses all the attributes of God revealed in Scripture

Jesus is God

His words and His work

John 1, Col 1, Heb 1

did not plunder/pillage/steal God's glory by saying He was God

John 5:17-18 But Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

John 10:30 one in nature, one in character

"I AM" statements with Ex 3:14

Mark 14:61-62 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, **I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

Dan 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should **serve** him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

Given a kingdom so all people will serve ("worship") Him
God alone is to be worshipped, therefore...

2. to the contrary, made Himself of no reputation

willingly set aside His Divine glory

3. took upon Him the form/nature of a servant (voluntary slave, bondservant)

The Servant of God

Is 42:1-7

John 6:38

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 13:3-5, 12-15

made in the likeness of men (mankind, created in the image of God)

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith,
Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast
thou prepared me

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth
his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem
them that were under the law, that we might receive the
adoption of sons.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched
with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points
tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. (God is not
tempted by sin but man is, Jesus made man and tempted
like us but did not sin)

4. humbled Himself...abased/degraded Himself

Matt 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but
to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

5. became obedient to death...submissive (to Father's will)

Matt 26:39, 42

Is 53:10-11 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to
grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he
shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the
pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall
see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his
knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he
shall bear their iniquities. (to become our Substitute for the
justice of God)

6. even death on the cross

nothing lower than this form of death (cruelty, torment, and humiliation)

Luke 24:46 *Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and
to rise from the dead the third day:*

Heb 2:9-18

v9-11 Wherefore...consequently

After the steps "down" are the steps "up" to glory, quoting Is 45:23

1. God has highly exalted Him...the "highest position"

Acts 7:55-56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly
into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing
on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the
heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right
hand of God. (just as Jesus told them!)

Acts 13:29-34 begotten unto eternal life in a glorified body, a building of God, not made with hands, eternal in the heaven (2 Cor 5:1)

Rom 8:29 that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (man-kind re-created into Jesus-kind)

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

2. given Him a name/authority which is above every name

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The ONLY way a sinner can get right with God

3. That...in order, for the purpose of
 - a. every knee should bow...NO exceptions, every creature
 - in heaven...angels and the regenerate Family of God
 - in earth...mankind and the creation (Rom 8:22)
 - under the earth...demons (ala Mark 3:11) and lost souls in hell
 - b. every tongue should confess/acknowledge/agree fully that Jesus is Lord, the Supreme Authority, the Lord of all
 - c. to the glory/honor/praise of the Father who John 3:16

Fulness of joy in the Church: the mind of Christ

John 15:9-11 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.*

1. consideration of others

Was drilled into our heads as children (when the Word of God played a large role in this society) and it was strictly enforced!

But with each successive generation since, this society began to despise the Word of God and now consideration for others is perishing and giving way to

- entitlement
- me me me
- You Do You

Society in 2024 vs society in 1950s:

- More happiness or more misery?
- More united or more divided?
- Standing strong or unravelling?

Consideration for others

- simple things, not major productions
 - opening the door for someone
 - “leave it better than you found it”
 - endless etc
- helpful things to go unspoken, not the stuff of spotlights shining
- requires thinking before speaking or acting...active thought process regarding the best interest of others vs self
- Self-last vs self-first...the Royal Law in action
- listening vs always talking
 - talk talk talk about yourself: I am more important
 - listen: you are more important
- responsive to the needs of others
 - “Leave a message and I will get back to you in 24-48 hours.”
 - No way to run a railroad or a relationship
 - (Don’t bother! I did not mean to bother you.)

Consideration for others must DOMINATE our marriages if they are to be happy
and reflecting the glorious relationship Jesus Christ has with His Bride

Consideration for others makes for a smooth-running, peaceful family
ours and the Family of God

Consideration for others are gold, silver, precious jewels that survive the fire
Inconsideration of others are wood, hay, stubble that go up in smoke

Consideration for others blesses the Lord
Inconsideration of others grieves the Holy Spirit

In any situation, What do I do?

Do the right thing, pursue righteousness/Christ

- A. Be considerate of (love) the Lord God
- B. Be considerate of (love) others

If all care for all others before themselves, all are very well cared for!

2. a universal and eternal truth

Matt 23:12 **And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

The self-humbled are God-exalted

The self-exalted (vainglory) are humbled by God

The way “up” is “down”

Humility is beautiful in the eyes of God

3. bending and confessing

sooner or later...but certainly

now: unto salvation and eternal life

later: unto condemnation and eternal death

now voluntarily...with joy and thanksgiving while have breath

later involuntarily...with rancor and bitterness at GWT

Be kind

Be considerate of others

Be Christ-like!