

Philippians 2026 Series -Lesson 12
“Results of a Believer’s Union with Christ”
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Introduction:

In our study, back in Philippians 1:3-4, Paul stated,

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

In this section we will see that it was the application of Bible doctrine by the Philippian believers that resulted in their behavior producing joy for Paul. This is the principle lesson from our study passage today. We will see that God has provided us with the resources and ability to live productive lives for Him. Remember, in our study of the crowns that are awarded Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ we observed that The Crown of Joy is awarded on the basis of our spiritual production. The Philippian believers were part of Paul’s spiritual fruit- he has joy in them. Our “Crown of Joy” will be determined by how well we have lived out our personal ministry.

Paul’s clearest statement of this doctrinal principle is found in Romans 12:1,

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.

The reasonable service on the part of the Philippian believers that will fulfill Paul’s joy is outlined in today’s passage.

There are some natural results of a Believer’s union with Christ that enables him to develop the conduct expected of a citizen of the Kingdom of God. These are introduced to us in chapter 2 verse 1-4. We will look at the resources and the application of them in verses 1 and 2 in this study.

Text: Philippians 2:1-4

- 1 If [there be] therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,*
- 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.*

So, in this study we will examine the resources available to the Believer that are identified in verse one of the second chapter.

I. Natural Resources Resulting From A Believer's Union With Christ:

Philippians 2:1

If [there be] therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

In this passage Paul identifies five natural resources resulting from the believer's union with Christ. Each of these is introduced with a conditional clause "...if..." However, each instance is a first class conditional clause in the Greek text – "...if, as is the case - or since..." So, there are five realities: *consolation; comfort of love; fellowship of the Spirit; bowels, and mercy.*

1. The First Resource: *"Since there is consolation in Christ":*

"consolation in Christ" (para-kle-sis)(ehn)(Christo) **one to call alongside for comfort, encouragement, direction and supportin the sphere of Christ..**

(para-kle-sis) - This Greek word emphasizes the resource of the Holy Spirit. He is the one Jesus sent who we can call to our side when we need comfort, encouragement, direction or support.

The use of the word '**para-klete**', at the time of the writing of the New Testament, identified one that could be called in a time of need. One of the primary functions of the "**paraklete**" was just to be there for support, frequently saying nothing - just being there. Then, of course there were other functions such as providing encouragement, counsel and direction. This resource is provided to the believer in the person of The Holy Spirit.

The feminine gender is used in this instance to emphasize the role of responder on the part of the Holy Spirit - He is a responder to our need.

The form of the word is dative/locative/instrumental case to identify the fact that this resource is available to those who are in Christ. The Dative Case emphasizes our advantage in having this comforter; the Locative Case identifies this provision is "in the sphere of Christ," and the instrumental case identifies the Holy Spirit as the agent of comfort.

(ehn)(Christo) in the sphere of Christ

This is the key phrase in this passage of Scripture. It identifies our position in Christ. It is only -in Christ- that we have salvation and find purpose and meaning with respect to our lives.

Our being - in Christ - is a result of our personal faith in Him as our Savior. Titus 2:14 says,

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

“peculiar” (peri-ou-sion) a dot encompassed by a circle to show position and ownership...

The means of accomplishing this union is given in Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2. The Second Resource Is *“comfort of love”*:

“comfort of love” (para-mu-thion)(agapes) **cheering onward and encouragement originating from self-sacrificial love...**

We need to note the distinction between **“paramuthion”** and **“paraklesis.”** In **“paraklesis”** we have one identified that we can call to our side to provide a variety of tasks including encouragement, counsel, comfort, instruction, rebuke and exhortation. In the form of **“paramuthion”** we identify one specific act of the **paraklete** - speaking words of comfort motivated by self-sacrificial love. So, **paramuthion** identifies the reality that in Christ we are comforted by speech that generates from the love of God.

3. The Third Resource Is *“fellowship of the spirit”*:

“any fellowship of the Spirit” (tis)(koin-o-nia)(pneu-matos) **there is common communion of fellowship from the source of the spirit...**

(koin-o-nia) This word is used to identify a common communion or sharing in common.

(pneu-matos) this is a form of the word for **‘spirit.’** This form of the word is the genitive-ablative case, which identifies the spirit as the source of the common communion, and sharing that we as believers have. Through the Holy Spirit-our paraclete-believers have a common communication and sharing with one another in Christ.

There is no article (the) in the Greek text thus the emphasis is upon the characteristics of the spirit rather than just the identity of the Spirit.

4. The Fourth Resource Is **“bowels”** !

“bowels” (splanchna) **passionate affections generated by deep-seated feelings from the gut...**

This Greek word refers to the innards of man with an emphasis upon the vital organs of the body and is used to identify strong affections. The reference to loving with the heart is based on the frequent use of this word - the heart being one of the vital organs of a person’s physical being.

The use of this word identifies the reality of feelings and passionate affection the believer has as a result of his union with Jesus Christ. When properly guided by the principles and teachings of the Word of God. This is a valuable resource in performance of our individual ministries in Christ.

5. The Fifth Resource Is **“mercies”**!

“mercies” (oik-tir-moi) **compassion for others as a result of their circumstances...**

(oik-tir-moi) This word is not used to identify ministry or service to others. It is a noun and is used to identify the source of motivation in assisting or ministering to others - compassion.

Remember! In this verse we are examining the supernatural resources that are available to the believer as a result of his union with Christ. These are the resources for ministry and behavior that is befitting a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

II. Summary of Resources Identified In Philippians 2:1

We have these resources to draw upon in living a life that is befitting the Gospel. As a result of our union with Christ...

1. We have one (The Holy Spirit) that we can call alongside for comfort,

encouragement, direction and support in living the Christian life. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to live a life befitting a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

2. As a result of our union with Christ we receive cheering and encouragement originating from self-sacrificial love. This is a powerful resource that can free the believer from worry and anxiety. Notice - it is a resource that is provided. However, it must be implemented through the Word of God. Romans 8:28 is a classic example:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

3. As a result of our union with Christ we are entered into a common communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are described as the Temple of God and the Holy Spirit dwells in each of us.

I Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

I Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

II Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

4. As a result of our union with Jesus Christ we have the resource of passionate affections generated by deep-seated feelings. This equips us for effective service to our King of kings enabling us to minister to others in His name. We don't often associate our relationship with God as being generated by deep seated feelings, but such is the case. Yes, God is capable of emotion as is described in a number of examples concerning His dealing with humanity.
5. As a result of our union with Jesus Christ we can have compassion for others as a result of their circumstances.

III. Instructions Concerning the Application of These Resources:

Paul mentions these five resources available to the believer in order to establish a basis for the instruction given in Philippians 2:2 *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded,*

having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.

God makes His resources available to the Born-again child of God; they are given to enable us to live a life that is befitting of the Gospel. The “However” here is we must *“...be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

Philippians 2:2

Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.

1. Fulfilling the Joy of Paul:

“Fulfil ye my joy....”

“Fulfil ye” (ple-roh-sa-te) **You! Make complete...**

Verb- expresses action

Imperative Mood - a command

Aorist Tense - in a point of time

Active voice - subject produces the action

This is not a statement of reality but an imperative command. Because in Christ: (1). We have one (The Holy Spirit) that we can call along side for comfort, encouragement, direction and support in living the Christian life; (2). We receive cheering and encouragement originating from self-sacrificial love; (3). We are entered into a common communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit; (4). We have the resource of passionate affections generated by deep-seated feelings; and, (5) We have a capacity for compassion for others as a result of their circumstances, We are commanded to make complete the joy of Paul.

“my joy” (mou)(taen)(charan) **the, of me joy....**

Noun – person, place, or thing

Accusative Case - case that establishes limits and boundaries

Feminine Gender - response

Paul told us in Philippians 1:4 that the action of the Philippian believers brought him joy. Here, he commands them to behave in such a way that his joy is made complete. There is a principle here for us as well, we are to conduct our lives in a way that brings joy to others observing us.

Now, in the phrase that follows Paul identifies the mechanics or means by which this is to be done.

2. The Purpose Of Using These Resources Is That We Might Have the Potential for Thinking the Way Paul Thought:

“...that ye be likeminded....”

“that” (hina) **in order that...**

This Greek preposition introduces a purpose clause. Paul said,
You! Make complete the joy of me, in order that....

“ye be likeminded” (to)(auto)(phro-nae-teh) **you might continuously think the same thing...**

Verb- expresses action
Subjunctive Mood - potential
Present Tense - continuous action
Active Voice - subject produces the action

Paul indicates that when we use the resources that he identified in verse one we will complete his joy with the purpose being that we then have the potential for thinking as Paul thought.

3. We Are To Maintain Self Sacrificial Love:

“...having the same love....”

“having” (e-chon-tes) **keep on having, as a matter of principle...**
Imperative Participle a commanded principle
Present Tense - continuous action

“the same” (taen)(au-taen) **the same...**

‘au-taen is preceded by the article (the) and followed by a noun, thus, it refers to maintaining the same something that has been identified in the context. In the preceding verse we had the statement, ***“...comfort of love...”***
Thus, we are to maintain the same love...

“love” (aga-paen) **self-sacrificial love that manifests itself in giving and continue to love regardless of the response...**

Noun- person, place, or thing
Accusative Case- establishes limits and boundaries
Feminine Gender - response to God’s grace provision

Of course if we maintain self-sacrificial love all these other things fall into line.

4. We Are to Maintain Unity:

“...being of one accord....”

“being” This verb is not In The Greek Text

The absence of the verb in Greek adds emphasis to the noun...

“of one accord” (sumps-u-choi) **one in soul...**

Adjective - denotes a quality (one in soul)

The soul is that which, gives the body life. The soul has mentality, emotion, volition, self-awareness, and conscience. Believers are to be one in soul! Thus, we are to maintain unity: mentally, emotionally, in self-awareness, in conscience, and in decisions or choices. We are to function as a body in the local congregation.

This unity is to be reflected not only in a harmony among us, but when one member of the body suffers, we all suffer, when one member of the body rejoices, we all rejoice.

Each member of the body is to function according to God’s personal design for him, yet in a harmony with all other members of the body of Christ.

5. We Are To Think in the Sphere of Oneness:

“...of one mind....” (to)(ehn)(phro-noun-tes) **thinking in the sphere of oneness...**

The article is used here (the). Therefore, the emphasis is upon believers thinking in the sphere of oneness that identifies our being a member of the body of Christ. While we are individual members, we are one in Christ and are declared to be His body during the Church Age.

Conclusion:

Using the Resources described in Philippians 2:1:

- (1) **Consolation in Christ**-The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is available to call to our side.
- (2). **Comfort of Love**- Cheering onward and encouraging generated by Self-Sacrificial Love.
- (3). **Fellowship of the Spirit**-Common communion of fellowship with God and other believers.
- (4). **Bowels**- Passionate affection generated by deep-seated gut-wrenching feelings,
- (5). **Mercies**- compassion for others based on their circumstances.

Using those resources we are to:

- (1). **Be Likeminded** - Think like Paul (His doctrinal philosophy for life and death)
- (2). **Having the Same Love** – Maintaining a Self-Sacrificial Love for others.
- (3). **Being of one Accord**– Being of one soul with other Believers (same application)
- (4). **Being of One Mind**- Thinking the same way: God said it. I believe it. That settles it.

Our union with Christ provides the resources for living a life that is befitting to Christ, and our yieldness to the control of the Holy Spirit makes those resources available. So, we must be in the Top Circle-Salvation and in the Bottom Circle- the Spirit Controlled Life. We must have accepted Jesus as our Saviour and we must permit the Spirit's control of our life by the personal acknowledgment of our sins through the confession of sin as per I John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"*

But It All Begins at Salvation

*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...
The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...
With the heart man believes unto righteousness...
But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!*

"And your joy no man taketh from you..."

(Luke 16:22)