

# Philippians: Gospel Partnership Towards a Joy-fulfilling Mindset

Intro

Augustine: "If you plan to build a tall house of virtues, you must first lay deep foundations of humility."

Calvin: "if anything in our whole life is difficult, this above everything else is so"

Edwards: "Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility."

Philippians 2:1-4 ESV

[1] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

SIGNIFICANCE  
DIFFICULTY  
EFFECTIVENESS

## A Joy-fulfilling Command

v2 – complete my joy by being of the same mind

- Long Greek sentence...dividing it up

## Complete my joy

- Personal and affectionate...and ambiguous
- Anticipate a mutual fulfillment of joy → complete My joy
- Jesus – his joy was filled up with his disciples' joy → do you share this desire
  - **John 15:11 ESV** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
  - **John 16:24 ESV** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.
  - **John 17:13 ESV** But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. • The pursuit of maximum joy is a pursuit of God  
• Choosing the most joyful option is always right
- Do we scoff at joy? Do we think it selfish to pursue joy? Is joy an important issue to us? WOULD YOU FIND FULFILLED JOY IN THIS?

## By being of the same mind

- This completes the ambiguous “complete my joy”
- Being of the same mind = share the same mindset because... mindset = a person's entire outlook on life, including the affections and the will - do we think in unity  
- do we love in unity  
- do we desire in unity
- Thus, have a unified outlook on life, a unified worldview, unified heart-felt desires
- This is how Paul envisions the Philippians having a life worthy of the gospel, this is how they are going to be “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents.”
- If we at WLA desire to live in a gospel-worthy manner, we must be of the same mind... share the same mindset

The imperative is that they both complete Paul's joy and are unified with the same mindset

This is the appropriate and logical response if v1 is true... *so let's look at v1*

### The Basis for the Command: 4 Presuppositions

v1 – *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, —→ complete my joy*

- Why presuppositions? The grammar indicates the assumption that these things are true. *⇒ IF → THEN or SINCE → THE*
- These verses describe the shared lives of gospel-partners
- "So" connects these verses to the preceding verses: "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have."
  - This is Paul's LOGICAL instructions based on their faith and suffering

Four benefits Paul assumes the Philippians have experienced:

1. Encouragement in Christ
  - a. emboldening another in belief or action
  - b. "Thus Paul is assuming that believers have encouragement by the very fact that they are in Christ; it is an outworking of the positional and experiential reality of being in Christ" (Harmon 186).
  - c. All the benefits of being in Christ should encourage us...see back of insert

- 2. Comfort from love
  - a. that which offers encouragement, especially consolation
  - b. Comfort not from circumstances, but from love
- 3. Participation in the Spirit
  - a. fellowship in the Spirit
  - b. Not experience the spirit's benefits, but rather experience a close a deep relationship
  - c. • Gal. 3:1-5 - Paul assumes believers have experienced the Spirit

Trinitarian? *Many commentators see an indication of the trinity here*  
*\* For God so loved ... oh, what manner of love the father ...*

- 4. Affection and sympathy
  - a. deep impulses of love and concern and concern over another's misfortune
  - b. between Paul and the Philippians

Paul assumes these things are true? *These represent the typical experience of born again believers*

- Gospel: *encouragement in Christ • affection*  
*• comfort in love*  
*• participation in Spirit* *sympathy*
- If they aren't? *- Have you truly surrendered to Christ*
- If they are, then this command, to be of one mind, to have a joy-fulfilling mindset, is a challenge to you.
- Indicatives precede, motivate and empower imperatives – gospel sandwich

*Imperatives*  
*- complete my joy by having the same mind*

[Redacted box]

- GOSPEL TRUTHS

*encouragement in Christ*  
*- comfort from love*  
*- participation in the Spirit*  
*affection sympathy*

[Redacted box]

- v5-11 - GOSPEL TRUTHS

*The gospel provides the means, the motivation and the power for the imperatives*

## The Means for the Command: 6 Ways to Work Towards a Joy-fulfilling Mindset

v2-4 – *having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*

[3] *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1. Have the same love
  - a. An abounding more and more type love
2. Be in full accord
  - a. Harmonious and shared life
3. Be of one mind
  - a. "thinking the one thing"
  - b. Of first importance – the gospel → Paul - delivered to you  
FIRST IMPORTANCE
  - c. One generation receives the gospel, the next generation assumes the gospel, the next generation loses the gospel ⇒ lets be mindful of the gospel
4. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit
  - a. Selfish ambition = An attitude which evaluates situations and circumstances in terms of how it benefits me
  - b. Conceit = an exaggerated self-evaluation
  - c. Chrysostom: "Hence it is that love waxes cold, when we love the praise of men, when we are slaves to the honor which is paid by the many, for it is not possible for a man to be the slave of praise, and also a true servant of God."

5. In humility count others more significant than yourself
  - a. Count one another – specific, not general
  - b. More significant = to surpass in quality or value
  - c. This is possible only in humility
    - i. Humility contrast the selfish and arrogant mentality that needs to be avoided
    - ii. Humility was counter-cultural to the pursuing and maintaining of honor
    - iii. **Calvin:** "if anything in our whole life is difficult, this above everything else is so"
    - iv. **Markus Bockmuehl:** "The biblical view of humility is precisely not feigned or groveling, nor a sanctimonious or pathetic lack of self-esteem, but rather a mark of moral strength and integrity. It involves an unadorned acknowledgment of one's own creaturely inadequacies, and entrusting one's fortunes to God rather than one's own abilities or resources."
    - v. **Mahaney:** "Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness."
    - vi. Paul illustrates humility: 1:12-26 gospel progress more important than his own status, comfort, or circumstances; gospel progress more important than other's bad motives; needs of Philippians more important than his desire to be with Christ

6. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others
  - a. Look = exert effort in continually acquiring information regarding some matter
  - b. • +vely, intentional attentiveness to how we can care for each other's needs
  - c. His own interests = the things of themselves; The interests of others = the things of others
  - d. "Paul's meaning is clear enough: do not be consumed with one's interests, since to do so is inevitably to neglect the needs of others."
  - e. Our default position is to look after ourselves
  - f. Thinking of others is rooted in the person and work of Christ
  - g. The gospel forgives us for our own destructive self-interest while empowering us to look out for the needs of others