

# Memory Verse

**Philippians 2:3**

**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility count others more significant  
than yourselves.**

GRACELIFE  CHURCH

The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. A thin white horizontal line is positioned directly below the text.

# PHILIPPIANS

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## Part 7

### Unity in Humility

Philippians 2:1-4

## **We have learned...**

- District of Macedonia, not far from Greece
- May have met in Lydia's home
- Paul founded the assembly in Acts 16
- He was in house arrest in Rome and wrote to them about 62AD recorded in Acts 28
- He thanked them for their partnership, prayed for them, reminded them to proclaim Christ while living under persecution

## Philippians 2:1-4

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

"It was John Riskin who said, "I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean by humility, doubt of his own power, or hesitation in speaking his opinion. But really great men have a ... feeling that the greatness is not in them but through them; that they could not do or be anything else than God made them." Andrew Murray said, "The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him.

He can bear to hear others praised while he is forgotten because ... he has received the spirit of Jesus, who pleased not Himself, and who sought not His own honor. Therefore, in putting on the Lord Jesus Christ he has put on the heart of compassion, kindness, meekness, longsuffering, and humility." M.R. De Haan used to say, "Humility is something we should constantly pray for, yet never thank God that we have."

*Today in the Word*, August 5, 1993.

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

The challenge goes back to 1:27, with letting their life be worthy of the gospel, or living as free citizens of heaven.

He mentioned the destruction of the opponents, and salvation for them, so it is *natural to talk about being united*.



## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

"Unity depends on a distinct mind-set... which is (a) is grounded in the prior work of God in the Philippians' lives (v. 1) and (b) finds tangible expression in the other-centered priorities of those who share Christ's mind-set (vv. 3-4). The result will be a community with a social ethos that contrasts markedly with the honor-seeking orientation of relational life in the broader culture of Roman Philippi."

*The Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament - Philippians*

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

He mentions **4 things** in *verse 1* as a challenge.

- *Any encouragement in Christ or exhortation in the Lord* is the **foundation**.

- *Any comfort from love* could refer to the comfort that comes from God's love, again the Lord being the focus.

- *Any participation in the Spirit* focuses on the Holy Spirit and the *fellowship or participation* the body of Christ has in Him.

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

- *Any affection and sympathy talk about our inner emotions, affections or desires and grace, mercy or deep feelings God has for us and expressed in those who follow Him.*

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

After these 4 things, he tells them to "*fulfill, make complete,*" or "*make full*" his *joy*...

We see *joy* as one of the themes of this letter.

Paul took *joy in these believers* and when they were walking with the Lord and united in humility, he rejoiced! How could they fulfill his joy?

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

He mentions **3 or 4 more things**: *By being of the same mind; having the same love, God's love; being in full accord or being united in soul; and again, be of the same mind.* The word "*mind*" for both terms is similar and based on the same word. It refers to **thinking put into action**, or *an inner perspective corresponding to an outward behavior.*

## A. 2:1-2 – Be United

They should have the same love the Lord has for them, for Him and for one another. In Christ, they were *connected in their innermost being*, in their heart or soul.

He *reiterated the same principle* at the end of verse 2. The word "*being*" is in the **continuous action**. He wants them to *continue having or being in full accord of one mind*.

## B. 2:3 – Be Humble

He challenges them to *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit...* That is, *don't let there even be a possibility of doing something from self-seeking*, acting for one's own gain, or selfish ambition.

## B. 2:3 – Be Humble

The **contrast** to doing things for selfish reasons is *in humility count others more significant than yourselves*. **Question:** What is humility?



## B. 2:3 – Be Humble

The **contrast** to doing things for selfish reasons is *in humility count others more significant than yourselves*. **Question:** What is humility?

The word here **means** “lowliness of mind, having a humble opinion of oneself, or compared to the Lord, having a proper view of ourselves.” It also refers to “*low*” and some have said, “*bowing*.”

## B. 2:3 – Be Humble

The words "*count others*" or "*consider*" can refer to *leading*, and to *think, deem or consider*. In **context**, it refers to *thinking of someone else in a higher or superior position than oneself*. It is raising someone else up. John the Baptizer said it well, in *John 3:30*: "He, Jesus, must increase and I must decrease."

## B. 2:3 – Be Humble

You don't make a show of your strengths or overemphasize your weaknesses. It's having a **realistic attitude about oneself**. You can be the most talented individual on earth, *acknowledge that, and still be humble in your attitude and conversations with others*, because you **acknowledge God** gave you those abilities.

## C. 2:4 – Be Considerate

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**One**, there is a *place to take care of yourself*.

There is a place to say "*no*." There is a place for you to pursue your goals, desires, hobbies, interests, business deals, and more, but *not in a selfish manner*.

## C. 2:4 – Be Considerate

Examples:

Work in business...

A student...

A new parent...

## C. 2:4 – Be Considerate

**Two**, *being considerate* never means we empower laziness, excuses or sin. If someone is lazy or angry without cause or disobeying God, *we confront them*. That is **being loving**. Putting the needs of someone else first, means we *recognize their deepest needs are between him/her/them and the Lord and other people*.

## C. 2:4 – Be Considerate

**Three**, *we have our own interests. This can be confusing and we need a Biblical perspective.* Being a **Christian** means *putting others first*, but we have our own families, our own lives and our own goals.

**Example:** A Christian waitress...