

Esteem Others Better Than

Philippians 2:1-11

Welcome back and here we go! Today we talk about sacrifice with joy, gladly giving to please God. Often it is just our pride or ego. We may not get our way. To start today's lesson we have to pick up from last week's lesson.

Philippians 1:29-30 ²⁹ *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,* ³⁰ *having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.*

- 1) What does this mean - *to believe and to suffer*?

As a believer, we can suffer loss in many ways. We lose our right to our way. Once we put our faith in God, we agree to change our patterns and behaviors to comply with Christ. Paul says, he *gladly loses all things* in Chapter 3. We gladly believe but do we gladly change?

Philippians 2:1-4 *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,* ² *fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.* ³ *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* ⁴ *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Consolation: The comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment. A person or thing providing comfort.

- 2) How is Christ your consolation in times of suffering?

Really, the scripture is affirming, not questioning if there is comfort. *The fellowship of the Spirit* is us - the Body of Christ. *Affection and mercy* reflect a heart of grace. Paul again says, *be like-minded*. Paul mentions this eight times. Not all of them are good. Here he mentions it twice. At Face of Grace, we are like-minded..... We think Grace Notes.

- 3) What does it mean to be like-minded with Grace Notes?

If we are learning these things we will operate on the same principles, starting with GRACE. Next, the scripture talks about doing *nothing through selfish ambition or conceit*. Remember, he is talking to believers ----- *but in lowliness of mind*.

Lowliness: sound thinking according to an absolute standard.

We are to have the mind of Christ ----- doctrine ----- in our minds and souls and in using this standard, be able to esteem others better than ourselves. When we continue, we will see Christ esteem us better.....

4) How do you esteem others better than yourself?

Then it continues with *look out not only for my own interests, but the interest of others.*

5) a) Whose interest do I look out for? (Personal)

5) b) Who looks out for your interests?

Is there a balance? Should there be a balance? Our model is Christ.

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christ becomes a servant to esteem us better and put us first. Paul again says “mind”. *Let this mind be in you.*

6) How do you get THIS mind in you?

If you are not getting it in --- you are not growing. How do you know you are growing? You have more grace with people. You are better with yourself.

If all our thinking is pegged to this standard, we will accept forgiveness, look up and try again. We can do the things that say I am caring more for you than for myself. Our lives are testaments to who we are.

Remember ***Philippians 2:1***

There is comfort in CHRIST, in His WORD, His MIND... We learn who God is. We can trust that and find peace.

Next week: Work out your own salvation.