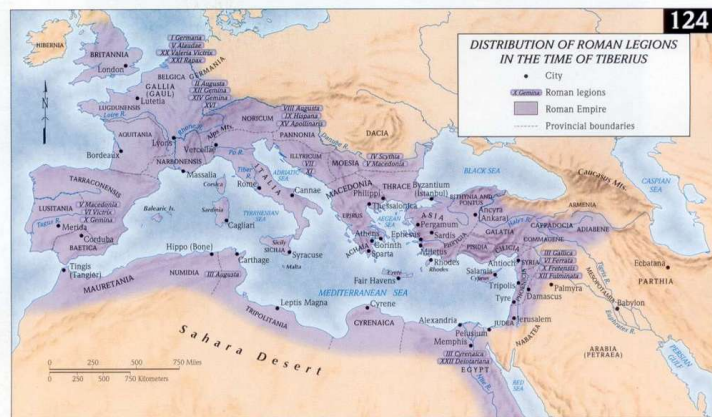


Study 4

THE MIND OF CHRIST



Background

Paul has shared with the Philippians the hardships that was enduring, yet despite these difficulties and the looming doom of his martyrdom, he was able to rejoice. As much as he loved his beloved Philippians he had become concerned about news of a dispute between two of its leaders that seems to have upset him and needed to be addressed (Phil. 4:2). Rather than *reacting* to this dispute between two women he felt obvious affection for, he set a model for church leaders today about how to deal with the early stages of conflict within a church. From my experience many pastors today become frustrated at what they consider the petty reasons for conflicts among believers within their congregation and then react in frustration to it which often seems to only inflame the situation rather than resolve it. Wise pastors and church leaders have often learned that sometimes a point can be made without confronting it *directly*. Perhaps this is what Paul has been doing thus far by talking about his present sufferings and in chapter two is about to continue by discussing the sufferings and humility of Christ. My posthumous mentor, [Dr. F.W. Boreham](#), taught me a lot about the art of pastoral

76. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:35:31 am
Phil. 2:1 ¶ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
77. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:34:57 am
2Cor. 13:14 ¶ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
78. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:48:37 am
2Cor. 13:14 ¶ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
79. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:49:55 am
love
80. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:50:04 am
grace
81. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:50:11 am
fellowship
82. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:49:30 am
Phil. 2:1 ¶ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
83. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:50:28 am
comfort
84. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:50:43 am
encouragement
85. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:51:01 am
participation (together) which might be what leads to “affection and sympathy”

subtlety in dealing with church conflicts. Many of essays reflect a *subtle* point of correction for younger inexperienced pastors like myself. In presenting this examination of Philippians chapter two's first eleven verses, I too will try to be subtle as I seek to correct those like Euodia or Syntyche who have allowed some offence between them and another member of the church to create a breach in the church's fellowship.

The Attitudes Needed to Fellowship

- 76 77 **Philippians 2:1** resembles Paul's benediction to the Corinthian believers (**2Cor. 13:14**) who had been troubled by agents of disunity. To the Corinthians Paul concluded his epistle by invoking a reflection upon the ultimate example of unity: *the Trinity*.
- 78 1. Read **Second Corinthians 13:14** and note how Paul refers to each member of the Trinity and what each member of the Triune Godhead contributed to enabling the unity of believers within the Corinthian church -
- 79 The Father: _____
- 80 The Son: _____
- 81 The Holy Spirit: _____
- 82 2. How then does Paul seem to invoke the Trinity in addressing the Philippians in **Philippians 2:1** and what each member of the Triune Godhead contributed to enabling the unity of believers within the Philippian church?
- 83 What does the Father's love enable: _____
- 84 What does being in Christ enable: _____
- 85 What does being in the Spirit enable: _____

Wise church leaders model how to encourage, comfort, get along, appropriately show affection. Dr. Stuart Robinson states, “To discover how warm or cold a Christian congregation may be the simplest test is metaphorically to place a thermometer in the mouth of the Pastor. If the Pastor is ‘hot’, zealous and passionate regarding their faith, the people will be too” (*Daring To Disciple - Making Jesus' Last Command Our First Priority*. 2020, 34). You can not be spiritually *on fire* and yet inconsiderate of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

86. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:00:20 am
Phil. 2:2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
87. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:00:30 am
By being of one mind and in one accord.
88. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:02:11 am
Phil. 2:2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
89. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:02:41 am
Yes and no. It is possible to be of one mind and in one accord with each other yet disagreeing about non-essential matters including such things as our taste in music (hymns or praise songs?)
90. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:32:14 pm
Phil. 2:2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
91. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 10:33:01 pm
Phil. 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
92. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:02:33 pm
Phil. 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
93. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:07:21 pm
Phil. 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
94. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:03:09 pm
Think of others as better than you, rather than less of you, and how to bless them.
95. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:08:57 pm
Phil. 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
96. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
26 April 2022 at 11:10:54 pm
John 13:5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
John 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"
John 13:8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash

86 3. In **Philippians 2:2** what did Paul say would bring him joy?

87

88 4. If we were to apply **Philippians 2:2** would it be possible for us to be *united* yet disagreeing with each other? Discuss.

89

Achieving Humility

In encouraging the Philippian believers to be united, Paul tells them to *think differently* which the ESV translates as “mind” (Phil. **2:2**; **2:5**). C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity* that humility began with how a person thought about themselves. Humility was not, wrote Lewis, a matter of thinking *less of yourself*, but a matter of thinking *less about yourself*. In this way, *pride* was always a matter about how a person thought of *others*. Pride was thinking *competitively* about others.

90 91 5. Instead of thinking competitively about others, how does **Philippians 2:3-4** instruct believers to think about themselves?

94

95 96 6. In **Philippians 2:5** believers are told to collectively have the mind of Christ. How does **John 13:5-6** reveal the mind of Christ in this context?

96

you, you have no share with me.”
John 13:10 Jesus said to him,
“The one who has bathed does
not need to wash, except for his
feet, but is completely clean. And
you are clean, but not every one
of you.”

John 13:12 ¶ When he had
washed their feet and put on his
outer garments and resumed his
place, he said to them, “Do you
understand what I have done to
you?”

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord
and Teacher, have washed your
feet, you also ought to wash one
another’s feet.

97. Dr. Andrew Corbett

26 April 2022 at 11:30:51 pm
Phil. 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
Phil. 2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

98. Dr. Andrew Corbett

26 April 2022 at 11:34:33 pm
Phil. 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

99. Dr. Andrew Corbett

26 April 2022 at 11:40:33 pm
Phil. 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

100. Dr. Andrew Corbett

26 April 2022 at 11:44:24 pm
Phil. 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
Phil. 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christ's Deity Makes His Humility Remarkable

The Greco-Roman gods of the ancient world were jealous, petty, proud and competitive. But Jesus, God-in-the-flesh, was meek, humble, lowly, the Servant to all (Phil. 2:6-7).

97

98

7. According to **Philippians 2:8** what was Christ's ultimate expression of His humility?

Christ's sufferings culminating in His death on the Cross led to Him atoning for our sins, defeating death, and triumphing over the enemy. But ultimately it brought the eternal Father glory and declared once and for all that there was nothing in the universe, not even death, that was more powerful than God.

99

8. What then did the Father give to the Son in honour of what He had done? (Phil. 2:9)

And now because Christ has conquered sin, death, and powers of darkness, everyone will bow their knee to Him and acknowledge that Christ is Lord — either willingly and gratefully, or begrudgingly and obstinately (Phil. 2:10-11). I hope that you and I will desire to do it worshipfully.

100

Application Discussion

- Why do you think some believers find it difficult to congratulate others?
- How would you counsel a struggling believer who was having an ongoing conflict with another believer over some small thing?
- How can we reflect the lessons from the unity within the trinity into our church?

Rejoice! Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Study 5, *Joy in the Faith*

Rejoice! Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Prepared by Dr. Andrew Corbett