



## **Pathway Visalia Men's ministry: April 7th - Paul's life for Christ "Philippians"**

This next Pathway Men's Ministry will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. For those who were unable to attend and for anyone interested, we post the study on our Pathway Visalia website. I pray that you will be able to join us. It is such a blessing to share with one another. Below is an overview of the topics that we will discuss as we work our way through the book of Philippians.



### **Philippians 2:1-12**

**1. Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? 2. Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.**

**Here, Paul asks us four questions, and then He gives us three instructions.**

**QUESTION:** So, let's start off by answering the four questions before we move on to the instructions. As you answer, ask the question: "What and How" and give some examples.

- 1 - Is there any **encouragement** from belonging to Christ?
- 2 - Is there any **comfort** from his love?
- 3 - Is there any **fellowship together** in the Spirit?
- 4 - Are your **hearts tender and compassionate**?

**QUESTION:** The 3 instructions are: and again, ask the question: "What and How" and give some examples.

- 1 - **agreeing** wholeheartedly with each other
- 2 - **love** one another
- 3 - **working together** with one mind and purpose

**QUESTION:** How have you seen these 3 instructions work together at church?

**Christlike Humility - (Phil. 2:3-11) comments from Chuck Swindoll's study Bible:**

It would be hard to find any section for Scripture more convicting than this one. Here we read of Jesus's humble attitude that should shape our view of ourselves and others. It should transform our thinking and our actions. What difference humility makes. If you're humble, you stop acting out of selfishness. You curb any conceited habits. You begin to regard others as more important than yourself. When you see a need in the life of another person, you regard it as greater than a need in your own. Humility of mind cultivates that kind of thinking. It makes you deliberately and consistently look out for others.

Selfishness is characteristic of our times. Everything is about me and mine. So how do we stop being so selfish? How do we check our tendency toward conceit? How can we begin considering others as more important? Philippians 2:5 offers the answer. "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." What was that attitude? Paul goes on to explain it:

Jesus existed in the highest of all esteemed positions, but when it came time for the incarnation - for Him to become human - He did not demand to keep His exalted position. He did not hang on to the glories of heaven. He voluntarily set aside the independent use of His divine attributes and became human.

To light the spark and begin to desire to lay down our own right and privileges and lift up the rights of other, we must understand the concept of the Cross. Having an attitude of humility requires we understand we are only able to stand before God because of the price Jesus has paid. We draw each breath only as God gives it to us, only because of His abundant grace. How could we even think of being conceited when we realize we owe the very breath we draw to Jesus Christ?

**3. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. 5. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.**

Paul starts out by telling us two things not to do; "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others".

**QUESTION: Share ways that you have failed to heed these warnings.**

**QUESTION: Why do you think that people; "try to impress others"?**

**QUESTION: Share how you have changed in these areas.**

**Paul then tells us to do four things as Christians.**

**QUESTION: What are they?**

**QUESTION: Share an example where you looked out for the interests of another person.**

**QUESTION: "think of others as better than yourselves" - how has this verse helped you when it came to personal relationships?**

**QUESTION: "take an interest in others," - how can we put this section into practice?**

**QUESTION: Let's talk about how important these verses are for our everyday life if we want to show Christian love to others.**

**6. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8. he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.**

**QUESTION: Let's talk about "equality", both from the stand point as a citizen of the US, and from the stand point of Christianity.**

**1: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. - Preamble to the Declaration of Independence**

**2: "Though Jesus was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to."**

**QUESTION: Vs. 6 states the fact that Jesus is co-equal in the Trinity as God, but that He did not cling to His rights. Is there an example in your life where you gave up some rights in order to help another person?**

**QUESTION: "humbled himself in obedience to God" - is there an area where you find it challenging to humble yourself?**

**QUESTION: How have the facts that are outlined in vs. 6-8 helped you to humble yourself in obedience to the Lord?**

**QUESTION: Share something that you have given up in order to be obedient to the Lord.**

**9. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth 11. And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**What important verses 10 and 11 are - This will happen - how important it is to do this now!!!!**

**QUESTION: How can we incorporate this fact when we minister to people?**

**QUESTION: Share how you frankly and openly confessed the Jesus Christ was your Lord.**

**12. Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.**

**QUESTION: Following Instruction: What is the first step of following an instruction?**

**QUESTION: What are some challenges when you have been given clear instructions from someone, but they are no longer present?**

**QUESTION: What does it mean to; "Work hard to show the results of your salvation"?**

**QUESTION: What does; "deep reverence and fear of the Lord" look like in your life?**