

Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Philippians 2:1-2 (New International Version)

May God . . . help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ Jesus toward the other.” Romans 15:5 (New Living Translation)

This passage explains how **three destructive attitudes destroy unity and how a spirit of humility brings God’s people together.**

- **First Destructive Attitude: “SINCE I’M BETTER THAN YOU, I DESERVE TO GET MY OWN WAY.”**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

Selfish ambition = a greedy attempt to gain the upper hand = selfishness

Vain conceit = the pursuit of personal glory = pride

Humility = an awareness of one’s true state

Consider = to calculate or to reckon

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another . . . Romans 12:10 (New King James Version)

Ways to Grow in Humility

- Listening (James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13)
- Seeking forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24)
- Forgiving others (Colossians 3:12-13)
- Reminding yourself of your mistakes

Therefore, as God’s chosen people . . . clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another . . . Colossians 3:12-13a (NIV)

- **Second Destructive Attitude: “MY INTERESTS COME FIRST—NO ONE ELSE’S ARE AS IMPORTANT.”**

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

Look = (Greek) *skopeo* = to contemplate, to fix one’s eyes upon

Second element of humility = to promote the good of others even at personal expense

“But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant.” Luke 22:26, 27 (NLT)

- **Third Destructive Attitude: “I NEED TO ALWAYS STAND UP FOR MY RIGHTS.”**

Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. ⁷He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. ⁸And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal’s death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

The final element of humility = voluntarily giving up my rights for the good of others

Jesus *“did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.”* (NKJV)

Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT)