

A Joyful Humility

Introduction:

- A. Humbling experiences.
 - a. Not knowing what you're doing. – [Starting a new job {stocking shelves}]
 - b. Being a sports fan. – [Your team will lose]
 - B. “*Freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth.*” – Webster's Dictionary
 - C. For the Christian humility is so much more...
 - D. Phil. 2:1-11
 - E. “As Christians we must learn that we gain so much when we live in humility.”
 - F. What?
 - G. In our text we find two joys that are gained by being humble.
- I. The joy of having unity through humility.
- a. We should be motivated to live in unity. (1)
 - i. “if” = “Since”
 - 1. “if *there is* any consolation in Christ”
 - a. “consolation” – (Greek = *paraklēsis*) Comfort.
 - b. Christ gives us the ability and comfort of overcome.
 - 2. “if any comfort of love”
 - a. “Comfort” – “to speak towards”
 - b. Kind and loving communication.
 - 3. “if any fellowship of the Spirit”
 - a. All Christians have this in common.
 - b. We all share the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. “if any affection and mercy”
 - a. KJV – “Bowels”
 - b. The center of emotion.
 - c. We can find real compassion!
 - ii. All of these truths should keep us humbly united...How?
 - b. We should seek the oneness of unity. (2)
 - i. Paul mentions 4 reaction statements to the “if’s” that would fulfill his joy.
 - 1. “if *there is* any consolation in Christ”
 - a. Then be like-minded.
 - b. Strive to be in agreement with one another.
 - 2. “if any comfort of love”
 - a. Then have the same love.
 - b. “Love” – agape = “love like God’s”
 - c. Strive for a mutual love for one another.
 - 3. “if any fellowship of the Spirit”
 - a. Then be of one accord.
 - b. “one accord” – united in soul
 - c. Strive for unity to the core.

4. “if any affection and mercy”
 - a. Then be of one mind.
 - b. Strive to think and have an attitude for one purpose.
- ii. But Paul is talking about unity and not uniformity.
 1. Unity
 - a. Comes from within.
 - b. It is having the attitude of looking for a common connection and purpose with others.
 2. Uniformity
 - a. Comes for without.
 - b. It is likeness forced upon people.
 - c. [Legalism – Purple paints with green polka dots]
- c. We should have the right perspective for unity. (3)
 - i. The wrong perspective for unity.
 1. “Selfish ambition”
 - a. KJV – “Strife”
 - b. Striving to put one’s self first.
 2. “Conceit”
 - a. KJV – “vainglory”
 - b. Striving for self glory – empty glory.
 - c. [Little boy & girl on a hobby horse]
 - ii. The right perspective for unity.
 1. “Lowliness of mind”
 - a. “Humbleness of mind”
 - b. Think with humility?
 - c. How?
 2. “Esteem others better than himself”
 - a. We are not to look on ourselves as 1#.
 - b. It is not all about us.
 - c. But we should have more respect for our neighbors.
 - d. Who? – “each”
 - e. We should treat them and look on them better than ourselves.
- d. We should learn the selflessness of unity. (4)
 - i. This is the reaction to having the right perspective.
 - ii. We must learn to be selfless as Christians.
 1. Putting other’s needs and concerns ahead of our own.
 2. This sincerely shows love to our neighbors.
 - iii. This is the idea of “self-forgetting”
 1. Laying aside your interest for a time to help someone else.
 2. [National Guard]
 3. We are not to be “religious doormats”
 - a. We are not be used...
 - b. We are to humbly discern how we help other.

“The next thing we gain...”

- II. The joy of being like Christ through humility.
 - a. We will think like Christ. (5&6)
 - i. Christ in His pre-incarnate state was well to step down from that to help people on earth. (6...)
 - 1. Christ was in heaven with God.
 - 2. Christ is God.
 - a. “form of God”
 - i. Posed all of God’s attributes.
 - ii. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* – Jn. 1:1
 - b. “equal with God”
 - i. He was and is in all parts God.
 - ii. He is God the Son.
 - 3. “Did not consider it robbery”
 - a. The idea of cling on...
 - b. Christ freely chose to come to earth, then to cling to the glory of heaven!
 - c. What selflessness!
 - ii. We too must think like Christ.
 - 1. “Mind” – (5)
 - a. More than how we think, but an attitude adjustment.
 - b. **[Remember hearing that as a kid?]**
 - c. We need to have the same outlook on like as Christ!
 - 2. Remember verse 4 – be selfless!
 - b. We will serve like Christ. (7)
 - i. Christ laid down His life and became a servant.
 - 1. “Made Himself of not reputation”
 - a. “Emptied Himself”
 - b. He laid aside His full attributes as God for a season.
 - 2. He became a “bondservant”
 - a. *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* – Matt. 20:28
 - b. He gave His life to people – sick & needy
 - c. He washed feet.
 - 3. He took the “likeness of a man”
 - a. Forever, He will have a relationship with man.
 - b. He is the infinite God Man.
 - c. All in order to save people.
 - ii. We too must serve like Christ.
 - 1. If we are truly humble Christians we will serve others around us.
 - 2. If we claim to follow Christ...
 - a. We must help the widows
 - b. ...feed the hungry.
 - c. ...help the sick.
 - d. Truly show love to those around us.

3. [Unless our belief in God causes us to help our fellow man, our faith stands condemned. – Billy Graham]

- c. We will sacrifice like Christ. (8)
 - i. Christ is a true picture of humble sacrifice.
 - 1. He humbled Himself completely.
 - a. He knew that the will of God was for him to die.
 - b. The Creator was obedient, even to the point of death.
 - 2. He humbled Himself to the death of the cross.
 - a. He willing laid down his life for the world.
 - b. *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* – Rom. 5:8
 - c. Jesus took on the worst form of death for you!
 - ii. We too must learn to sacrifice like Christ.
 - 1. What do I mean?
 - 2. *“Ministry that cost nothing accomplishes nothing.”* – Someone
 - 3. A humble Christian has an attitude to follow Christ, even when it cost.
 - a. If paying a price will honor Christ and help others, then we pay it.
 - b. [No pain, no gain]**
 - c. Ask yourself, “Is it costing me anything to be a Christian?”
- d. We will glorify God like Christ. (9-11)
 - i. Christ completely humbled himself to the glory of God.
 - 1. It all hinges on verse 11b.
 - 2. Christ ...for the glory of God.
 - a. Left glory
 - b. Became a servant
 - c. Bore the cross
 - 3. God in return for Christ humble obedience...
 - a. Exalted Him
 - b. Gave Him a name above all names.
 - i. To that name submission will come (10)
 - ii. To that name confession will come (11)
 - c. But all to the glory of God.
 - ii. We too must glorify God like Christ.
 - 1. This is the whole purpose of the humble life.
 - a. God saved us for His glory – Eph. 1:4-6
 - b. We are to life for His Gory
 - i. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* – Matt. 5:16
 - ii. A humble life is a life that puts God first!
 - 2. Like Christ when we are humble, God exalts us.
 - a. If we humbled ourselves to the gospel, God lifts us up to Heaven.
 - b. If we live as humble Christians then God will exalt us more.
 - i. *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time”* – 1 Pet. 5:6
 - ii. Our humble obedience today will one day be rewarded.

c. Have we come to this point?

Conclusion

- A. Have you found the joy of humility?
- B. Have you humbled yourself before Christ?