

Review: Conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Unity which is a sign to troublemakers. Granted to us to believe in Christ but also suffer for him.

Verse 1 The four blessings we have in Christ

If GK: refers to a fulfilled condition. Better translation: **In view of the fact** or **Since!**

Paul a very logical thinker. He goes through **4 logical steps** of **blessings** realized in their relationship with Christ.

1. Encouragement GK: Cause a person to be encouraged, consoled, &/or exhorted. This GK word is associated with the word for Holy Spirit “Beside & Called to” Holy Spirit comes along side to comfort, exhort, encourage.

United/In GK: (Louw) marker of close personal association. (Zodhiates) in with primary idea of rest.

Christ! From your learnings & experiences with Christ & His life! His life should be an encouragement etc.

- **Col 1:21** One time Alienated from God!
- **Eph 2:12** Read separate from Christ ... without hope without God in the world.
- **Eph 2:19** no longer aliens and foreigners! Citizens of heaven and members of God’s household.
 - Reminder: You are in the family now! You were once outside the family!
 - Philippians lack of unity was breaking down the spiritual family unit!

2. Comfort GK: from speaking closely with tenderness but this work speaks more to the **PROCESS!** (I Pet 5:7) (Wuest) Tender persuasion and encouragement which exhorts to unity, comes from God’s love for them.

Love Noun form of verb Agape (26) Person who displays an ongoing unselfish love for you.

Romans 8:31 If God be for us, who can be against us?

Think of a rough time you had but a person sat with you to bring you comfort. Opposite of Job’s friends’ actions.

3. Fellowship GK: involving close mutual relations & involvement (Koinonia). Joint participation with Spirit in working for Christ and his kingdom.

Spirit GK from “breath” Used of Holy Spirit. Jesus breathed on disciples saying receive the Holy Spirit. **Jn 20:22**

Eph 5:18 Be filled/controlled by the Spirit rather than alcohol. Fellowship with the Spirit rather than drink ‘spirits’ Ministering with another in a spiritual goal creates fellowship and an eternal rewards!

4. Tenderness GK: Intestines/Bowels Inward love & tenderness for. **I John 4:8 Col 3:12** clothe yourselves with

Compassion GK: “to show mercy and concern” with sensitivity! Our hearts changed! Outward love in actions!

Verse 2 Living Out the 4 Blessings of V1

Make GK: (Aorist Imperative Active)

Joy GK: (Louw) a state of joy with great happiness.

complete GK: to make full ie: nothing missing! Paul’s joy even while in jail would be tremendously great!!

Like minded (mindset or attitude) Like/same “idea of identical” “Identical Twins!” Ever try to tell them apart?

Thinking the same thing. Focusing on advancing the kingdom! Some people in churches argue about everything from pews to paint colors! **Be GK:** (Present Subjunctive Active)

Phil 1:18 Strife and Envy of agitators. **Phil 4:2** Euodia and Syntyche!

Romans 12:16 “live in harmony with each other”

Imagine Paul’s heart reflecting on the bickering while he is in a Roman jail for two years!

Having GK: (Present Active Participle) **Same LOVE** Agape (26)

Types of Love:

- **Phileo** I like you. You are cool and fun to talk with. Contrast with Agape!
- **Eros** Intimate physical love.

Being one in GK: (PAP)

- **Spirit GK:** from “together and soul” IE soul brothers!!!
- **Purpose GK:** (Louw) in contrast to more than one. Goal setting priorities.

Goal is Unity!!! Eph 4:3 keep unity of Spirit through bond of peace!

Verse 3 Ambition vs Humility

Nothing in Greek means NOTHING!

Out of/from GK: in accordance with. Rockefeller Caddy dime.

(Negative) **Selfish ambition**/strife GK: (Louw) feeling of resentfulness based upon jealousy and implying rivalry.

(Zodhiates) to work for hire. IE: We sell our souls and our energy to selfish ambitions. **James 4:2-3**

Vain conceit GK: (Louw) state of pride, which is without basis or justification. (Zodhiates) desire for praise.

(Positive) **Humility** is part of a believer's character. Humble without arrogance! Dave L.

Consider others GK: (present passive/middle participle) Make yourself have an "opinion of"

Better GK: Have over you! They got you on this! (Louw) to be of surpassing or exceptional value.

Verse 4

Look GK: (Wuest) comes from a word meaning, "to fix the attention upon with desire for and interest in."

(Lightfoot) **GK**: "to consult one's own interest."

(Negative) **STRONG** focus on **own interests** – to point of **Idolatry!**

(Positive) also focus on **interests of others**

Should we totally sacrifice our interests for others?

It's OK to have your own personal interests! But give equal time though, to interests of others!

Verses 5 - 11

1. In Phil 2:5-11 some folks teach this section as doctrine others as an exhortation to SERVE! Both apply but Paul zeroes in on Jesus' focus on thinking of others.
2. Paul now offers the "optimal example" to better define what he shared with the Philippians to follow in fulfilling verses 1-4. Then Paul provides an illustration of that definition in 2:6-8.

Verse 5 What is attitude?

Attitude/let mind GK: (Wuest) to have *understanding*, be wise, direct one's mind to a thing, seek/strive for"

What comes to your mind when a person says, "*They have an attitude!*"

- Is *understanding* always for the good?
- What guides our *understanding*?
- What should our "*understanding*" be based upon?

Eph 4:1-3 Life a life worthy of calling...completely humble, gentle, patient, bearing w/ each other in love! Unity!

Be GK Emphatic tone!! (Present Imperative) **Jesus' Attitude!**



Verse 6 Heavenly Example of Attitude!

Being/existed GK: (Present Active Participle) **God**. Jesus never stopped by God! Immanuel God with us!

John 1:1 In beginning ... Word was with God and the Word was God!

Involves continuing to be that which one was before. **Heb 13:8, James 1:17,**

Very Nature/in form of

- (Vincent) Divine nature actually and inseparably subsisting in the Person of Christ
- (Zodhiates) the utterance of the inner life, a life that bespeaks the existence of God.
- (Wuest) The Greek word has no reference to the shape of any physical object. Vincent has an excellent note on the word saying, "We must here **dismiss** from our minds the **idea of shape**. The word is used in its philosophical sense to denote that expression of being which carries in itself the distinctive nature and character of the being to whom it pertains, and is thus permanently identified with that nature and character.
- (Jeremiah) Only place this word used in NT Greek
- (Wuest) As applied to God, the word is intended to describe that mode in which the essential being of God expresses itself. We have no English word that can convey this meaning, not possible to formulate the reality. Judges 13:18 (Samson's birth) Manoah He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding."

Equality GK: (Zodhiates) Equal, alike in quantity, quality, dignity. Jesus equal w/ God & is God!

Grasped/ GK: (Wuest) “a treasure to be clutched and retained at all hazards.”

Other Translations

AMP Who, although being essentially one with God *and* in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped/retained,
Wuest vv6 Who has always been and at present continues to subsist in that mode of being in which He gives outward expression of His essential nature, that of Deity, and who did not after weighing the facts, consider it a treasure to be clutched and retained at all hazards, to be equal with Deity (in the expression of the divine essence).

How does this apply to us?

- We all feel we have “rights” that need respected and honored.
- If anybody had a “right” to hold on to their own interests, it would be Jesus! He was God!
- If Jesus has this “attitude” of “others-first”, what should be our attitude?
- Imagine what life would be like if Jesus had the Philippians attitude of “Me First”!
- **I Cor 10:23-33** Meat and idols attitude. What is best attitude? (**I Cor 8:9-13**) Read together.

Verse 7

made himself No one made the choice for Jesus. He made it himself!

Nothing/Emptied Himself GK: to make empty. (Louw) completely remove or eliminate elements of high status or rank by eliminating all privileges or prerogatives associated with such status or rank.

(ME) “subjected himself to man” rather than grasp onto God being God who is subject to no one.

Nature/Form Same as vv 6. Jesus took on all the **weaknesses** of **humans**. **Hebrews 2:18** suffered when tempted!

Servant Phil 1:1 Bondservant. Jesus, the God of the Universe, lowered himself to be a **bondservant**.

- To Pilate: If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would be fighting for me.
- Matt 26:53 Jesus at Gethsemane, “don’t you think I can call on 12 legions of angels?”
- Elisha and his servant. Hills filled with chariots of fire.

Jesus made the choice to be a servant. **Example:** Mike Rowe of Dirty Jobs!

- How inclined would we be to take up a job that would turn most people’s stomachs?
- Live in a cardboard box for the homeless?

Being made in Human Likeness! GK: **Likeness** means shape and form along with physical appearance.

- Jesus **transfiguration** with Moses and Elijah.
- Paul’s experience on the Damascus Road. Blinding light!
- Imagine how a lightbulb would feel if it produced no light!

Verse 8 **Servanthood Attitude**

Found GK: learn the location of, result of a search Jews were looking for Messiah. They didn’t know what God looked like because no one has ever seen God! **John 1:35 – 44**. Andrew told Peter... we found...

Appearance GK: Fashion, external form of a man **Bird fly into glass analogy.**

Humbled GK: to make or bring low. Ex: Nile when its depth is low.

Became GK (Aorist participle middle voice) Made the choice. No one forced Jesus.

Obedient GK: Submit and obey. Obedience is not in our “genes”!

- **Death** on a **cross**. Crucifixion was the most painful sort of death imaginable.
- Jesus literally “poured himself out” on the cross. Devil Matt 4 temptation to avoid the cross.

Application to us?

- Jesus gave his all for others! How much of ourselves are we willing to give for others?
- How obedient are we willing to be for Christ as world increasingly attacks Christ & us? Chip & Joanna Gaines
- John 14:15, 22-23 Love me will keep my commands. Obedience!
- I John 4:7-8 Attitude of love because love comes from God! Not loving, maybe time for an attitude check?

Verse 9 Extreme Exhalation!

Exalted GK: (Louv) regard a person as being exceptionally honored in view of high status.

Highest place GK: Highest Place. There is NO higher place in the universe!

- Rem John and James' mom asking for her sons to sit at right and left hand of Christ?
- Rem Jesus taught disciples to pick the lowest seat in the house so you will be elevated not embarrassed?

Gave GK: Greek word used for "grace".

Name GK: speaks to the title, character, and reputation of the person. **JESUS** (Jehovah is salvation)

Above GK: Exceedingly abundantly **Eph 3:20**

Apply to us? Exalted already!

Eph 2:6 Seated GK: to cause to sit down with someone. **Eph 1:20** Seated at right hand.

Glory that will be revealed in us when he appears! **I John 3:2** We will be like him!

We will be sooo overwhelmed with Awe and Joy when we see him!

Verse 10

Every Knee Romans 14:11 Isaiah 45:23

Should/will GK: (aorist **subjunctive** active)

- Some don't bow knee now.
- There will be a time when all will bow.

Bow/ Bend GK carries idea of homage and worship

- Various "communities" are attacking believers who hold to the Word in church and their lives.
- People are trying to live their lives as if they are their **own "lord and master"**! Their knees will be forced to bow in the future. *We are bowing our knees now by choice with how we live for him right now.*
- Joseph and his brothers. They had less than positive attitude towards Joseph, but Joseph exalted in their eyes.

Verse 11

Tongue GK: (Louv) person as one who utters something. How many people? ALL -- EVERY!!!

Confess GK: (aorist **subjunctive middle**) from to speak the same thing but this is a much stronger form.

- Every person who rejects Christ will "confess" publically and profusely that Jesus is Lord.
- Note they will call him Lord, but not Savior cause they never accepted him as their savior.
- For years people thought they "lorded over" their own lives. They will learn too late that it's NOT true.

Glory GK: (Louv) to speak of something as being unusually fine and deserving honor. **of God!**

- Devil thought he would rise about the Most High.
- Man thought they could build the Tower of Babel to rise above and not be subject to a flood again.
- Devil thought he had victory in Christ's death! Not so!!!

Applications for Us

1. **Unity.**

- a. How much do we contribute to the unity in our church?
- b. How much do we contribute to building unity with our family, friends, fellow co-workers?

2. **Humility.** Strength under control.

- a. Do we control our lives or do our lives control us?
- b. How much do we support the interests of others?

3. **Attitude.**

- a. Do we grasp onto things that we know are ours by right, or do we think of others well being?
- b. Mike Rowe of Dirty Jobs. What dirty jobs do we avoid that are below us or outside of our comfort zone?