

COMPLETE JOY

Unity & Humility in Philippians 2:1–11

Paul opens with a four-fold appeal — encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, fellowship in the Spirit, and tenderness and compassion — then calls the church to "complete his joy" by being of one mind (v.2). The path there is not agreement by force but humility: counting others as more significant than ourselves (v.3), looking to the interests of others (v.4), and taking on the mind of Christ, who emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, and humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross (vv.5–8) — for which God highly exalted Him (vv.9–11).

UNITY

Ps 133:1 — *How good and pleasant when brothers dwell in unity.*

John 17:21–23 — *Jesus prays that His followers would be one, as He and the Father are one.*

Rom 12:16 — *Live in harmony; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.*

Rom 15:5–6 — *May God grant you to live in harmony, that together you may glorify God.*

1 Cor 1:10 — *Paul appeals for agreement, no divisions, united in mind and judgment.*

Eph 4:1–3 — *Bear with one another in love, eager to keep the unity of the Spirit.*

Col 3:14 — *Above all, put on love, which binds everything together in harmony.*

HUMILITY

Prov 3:34 / Jas 4:6 — *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

Mic 6:8 — *Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*

Matt 20:26–28 — *Whoever would be great must be a servant, as the Son of Man came to serve.*

Rom 12:3 — *Think of yourself with sober judgment, not more highly than you ought.*

1 Pet 5:5–6 — *Clothe yourselves with humility; humble yourselves under God's hand.*

Col 3:12 — *Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.*

Jas 3:13 — *Show good works in the meekness that comes from wisdom.*

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- In what areas of your daily routine is it hardest to “value other above yourself”?
- How does remembering Christ’s sacrifice on the cross enable you to lay down your pride when offended?
- Why is it difficult for so many of us to put others first? What are the sinful attitudes and thoughts that produce this difficulty in you?
- Where do you notice subtle forms of “selfish ambition” or “vain deceit” sneaking into your work, personal, or church life?
- How does our unity as Christians – or lack thereof – affect our witness to nonbelievers in our community?
- What is the difference between Biblical unity and mere conformity of conflict avoidance?

LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Speak one specific word of encouragement to someone in your church family — don't just think it, say it. (*Phil 2:1*)
- Before a conversation where you disagree, silently ask, "What does this person need, not just what do I want to say?" (*Phil 2:4*)
- Take on a task that comes with no recognition — serve where no one will see or thank you. (*Phil 2:7*)
- Practice receiving correction without defensiveness; let it be evidence of grace rather than a threat to your image. (*Jas 4:6*)
- Pray by name for one person you find hard to be unified with, asking God to grow your love for them. (*John 17:21*)
- At a meal this week, actively yield the better seat, the last word, or the credit to someone else. (*Rom 12:10*)

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 2:5