

## Philippians Class III: 1:27-2:11

### 1: 27: Unity for the Gospel:

- Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel
- “Conduct” (politeuesqe, politeuesthe) is a term in the Greek indicating “the conduct expected of citizens in a state”
- What would that mean in this context?
- What does it mean to live “worthy of the gospel?”
- What is the point of Paul talking about whether he sees them or hears about them in his absence?
- What is the main desire of Paul in this verse?

### 1: 28: The Sign:

- “Without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God”
- What is the “sign” or “evidence” talked about here?
- “Fear” here is probably “intimidation”
- Do we see opposition to the faith gospel as a sign of our coming salvation and other’s destruction?
- How so?

### 1:29-30: Suffering as a Gracing of God

- For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.
- What does it mean, “It has been granted?”
- What are the two things granted or graciously given (charizomai) to us here?
- Do you and I feel it is a grace or gift of God to be able to suffer for Jesus? Cf. Acts 14:22. Does the mirror concept come in here? Cf. 1:7 “partnership”

### 2:1-2: Bring Joy to One Another Through Unity

- “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, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose”
- What is the command here?
- Isn’t it “make my joy complete?” How is joy brought to someone? Doesn’t it come by having an outward focus?
- How would being joyful in affliction bring joy to Paul?
- Compare what Paul says in 1:25-26. Do we do this?
- What four compassion things does Paul appeal to for completeness in his joy?
- What are the four things that will make his joy complete?

### 2:3: The Bottom Line to Bringing Joy: Total Selfless Humility

- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, BUT in humility consider others better than yourselves”
- How do you determine when ambition is selfish?

- Do you and I consider all others “better” than yourself?
- What would that mean when lived out practically?

**2:4: The Bottom Line to Bringing Joy: Total Selfless Humility**

- “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.”
- Greek says, “Not looking to your own things BUT to the things of others”
- What is the difference in translations?
- Doesn’t the Greek indicate a more total selflessness than the other translation?
- How does total selfless humility bring joy to others? Cf. I Cor. 13:5. Love brings joy.

**2:5: Jesus: Total Selfless Humility Brings Joy and Glory to God**

- “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”
- Literally: “This think in you which also is in Christ Jesus”
- How did Christ “think?”
- What attitude did Jesus have?
- Wasn’t it one of total selfless humility for the purpose of bringing salvation to us and glory to God?
- Why should we imitate Him?
- Why shouldn’t we imitate Him?

**2:6: How Jesus Thinks**

- “Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped”
- Do we consider equality with anyone something we need to have?
- What are some signs that would indicate we seek that?
- Do we think like Jesus?
- What does our mirror say?

**2:7-8: How Jesus Thinks**

- “But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross”
- Do we desire to make ourself nothing?
- What would that mean?
- What do we need to become “obedient to” in order to have the same humility of Jesus?
- Does our mirror tell us anything?

**2:9-11: The Resultant Joy and Honor of Jesus**

- Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
- How does Hebrews 12:2 and joy fit into this?
- Can we find joy if we seek it?
- Or is it found by total selfless humility imitating Jesus’ attitude, thinking, servant hood, looking out for others interests, and becoming nothing.

**May we live to bring joy to God, Jesus, our brothers and sisters, and the lost!**

## INDICATORS OF PRIDE

1. **Lack of gratefulness:** Col. 3:15; 4:2; 2:7; 1:12,3. Be joyful always—Phil 4:4.
2. **Cutting others down verbally** or silently in your mind. Not being able to rejoice with their successes
3. **Deceit, passing the buck,** filtering out truth—I Sam. 15—King Saul is prideful in these ways.
4. **Conceit.** Thinking of self above others and that you are better than they—Phil. 2:3-11.
5. **Fear, timidity,** Rev. 21:8 “cowardly”; II Tim. 1:7. Basically fear comes when we trust in ourself and not in God. Dependence on self and lack of trust in God is pride.
6. **Religious pride.** “I have done all these things” see Matt 7 and 15:1-9. Thinking that you are good or OK with God because you have done certain things. E.g., “I go to church every Sunday” or “I pray every day”, I know the Bible, etc.,
7. **False humility,** e.g., thinking to yourself that you are humble and lowly and desire input in your life to make it better, BUT you get angry if someone gives you an area in your life to change. This is inner pride and false humility, one which says, “I don’t deserve anything” but yet reacts with depression or anger if failure happens or if things do not work out the way you wanted them too. It is very deceiving and causes confusion in one’s mind. See also Lk. 18:9-14.
8. **Self-reliance** (not depending on God or prayer for everything you do). II Chronicles 7:14—We need to humble ourselves and pray.
9. **No close personal bonds/relationships.** Rather one sees independence and feels he does not need others. We think we do not really need others; we can do it on our own, thank you! It becomes especially obvious when we actually say or act in a manner that expresses “I don’t need you in my life” or not really being our brother’s keeper? Gen. 4:9.
10. **Monuments to self** such as school, degrees, education, car, hobbies, house, etc., cf., the tower of Babel in Gen. 11.
11. **Wanting to do it my way, not seeking advice.** Not following instructions simply because you think you know and/or don’t want to look like you don’t. The “I don’t need help” mentality.
12. **Quarrels.** Proverbs 13:10. Usually, this comes because one does not want to be shown he is wrong, or does not want to look wrong before others, or allow anyone to get the upper hand.
13. **Comparing self with others.** II Cor. 10:12, 17-18. It is a way of convincing yourself of being righteous. This is done either by out-right saying you are better than others or by thinking it consciously or sub-consciously (See Phil. 2 where it says to consider others better than yourselves.) Self-righteousness is pride and says, “Wow, I am so much better than them.” We need only to compare ourselves to Jesus, then we can put pride to death. See also Lk. 18:9-14.
14. **Not allowing others to honor you.** Prov. 15:33. Humility comes before honor.
15. **Emotionally, or even physically beating yourself** because of a failure. Usually this happens because a person consciously or perhaps even sub-consciously does not want to look bad in the eyes of others or be embarrassed. This is the pride of people pleasing and self-focus. In this situation, one’s pride causes him not to want to look foolish. Then when something happens that causes him to feel foolish, he becomes angry at himself and others. Children do not do this. This is part of what is involved in Matt. 18:1-4 where Jesus says that unless we become like little children, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Conversely, if we do humble ourselves like a child, we will become great in the Kingdom of God.
16. **Not trusting others,** feeling hurt when challenged with the truth.
17. **Not teachable,** not moldable Luke 11:1-4.
18. **Not being willing to do something radical** because of how you may look to others, Gal. 1:10. There is still a part of self inside you and you have not given up. Your pride causes you to protect self or please self/others.

More pride passages: Ps. 51; 36:1-2; 10:4; Dan. 4; II Sam 12 & 13; Prov. 4:18-19; 29:23; Lk. 18:9-14; 18:18-29; 14:1-14. God hates it, Prov. 8:13. In fact God opposes the proud—I Pet. 5:5. The proud do not receive grace