

PHILIPPIANS: A GUIDE TO TRUE JOY

Chapter 1:27-2:11 One in Christ

Speaker: Auke Rienstra



VS. 1:27-30 SHOW YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.



VS. 1:27-30 SHOW YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.



1:27-30 SHOW YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN

- 27A: Don't just wear the Christian name tag
- 27B:
 - standing firm: be immovable
 - one Spirit, one mind: unity
 - striving side by side: hard work
 - for the faith of the Gospel: vs false gospels



1:27-30 SHOW YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN

- 28-30: not frightened by your opponents: whether you like it or not, you have an adversary (1 Pet. 5)



VS. 2:1-4 PURSUE HUMILITY

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.



VS. 2:1-4 PURSUE HUMILITY

- 1-2: one mind, same love, in full accord with one another: the key to achieve this is humility
- 3-4 the opposite of humility is pride/ambition/conceit



VS. 2:1-4 UNITY UNDER THREAT

- Our unity is constantly under threat
 - From the outside (opponents verse 28)
 - From the inside (pride verse 3-4)



PRIDE VS HUMILITY

1. John Stott: 'pride is our greatest enemy, humility is our greatest friend
2. Pride is in its origin demonic and satanic: Is. 15 satan becomes proud
3. Pride compares, humility serves
4. Pride covets the success of others, humility celebrates it
5. Pride is about me, humility is being selfless



PRIDE VS HUMILITY

6. Pride is about my glory, humility is about Jesus' glory
7. Augustus: 'pride is the mother of all sin'
Humility is mother of all joy
8. Humility is a lifelong process: 'I am proud to be humble' or 'I am a proud person persuing to be humble'



VS. 2:5-8 JESUS' EXAMPLE

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,³ being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



VS. 2:5-8 JESUS' EXAMPLE

- Jesus is the most humble person who has or will ever live!
 - God Himself incarnates into a human being
 - God became man/slave
 - Creator entering creation
 - Timeless/eternal entering into time
 - Omnipresent enters into a place



VS. 2:5-8 JESUS' EXAMPLE

- Seated on a heavenly throne, born in a barn
- Surrounded by angels in glory to come and be disrespected, mocked and abused by sinners
- Jesus set His divine attributes aside
- Jesus' death on the cross is most humble act in history



VS. 2:5-8 JESUS' EXAMPLE

Only Jesus' humility can brake our pride



VS. 2:9-11 JESUS' EXALTATION

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



VS. 2:9-11 JESUS' EXALTATION

Therefore God has:

- Exalted him
- Every knee should bow
- And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord



VS. 2:9-11 OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS

The question is not whether you will bow your knee to Him but when:

- Today for your salvation or when He comes back for your condemnation?
- As a friend or foe of Jesus?
- For your joy or for your shame?



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