

## May 24, 2020 “Yield” Bible Studies for Life

When have you ever wanted to be first in line?

the bank	a ride at Busch Gardens
a fast food restaurant	leaving a parking lot after a ball game
the grocery store line	boarding or getting off a plane

Some people like to always be first or ahead of everyone else. Paul wrote that we shouldn't always want to be first.

**Our Point Today:** Humbly place the needs of others before your own.

Humility means in a way that shows or suggest a modest or low estimate of one's importance; meekly; in a lowly position or condition. Humility is not a sign of weakness. People who show humility do not believe they are better than others, are willing to say, “I was wrong” or “I'm sorry.” Humble people often listen to others and celebrate the success of others. Humility is a healthy balanced view of ourselves. It is a recognition of our strengths and weaknesses. It is being comfortable enough with ourselves and strong enough to make deliberate commitment to others' welfare. It refrains from judging others but looks for the good in others. We need to look for others' needs and interest.

It is believed that Paul wrote Philippians to the church in Philippi around AD 61 – 62 while he was under house arrest in Rome waiting his first trial before Caesar. Paul wrote to thank the Philippians for the money they had sent him through their messenger Epaphroditus. Paul also wrote to inform the church of his circumstances and to explain why he was sending Epaphroditus back home early. Paul wanted the church to remain united in Christ. He called them to be united in spirit, in task, and in confidence. He urged them to put the needs of others before their own.

Philippians 2:1-4 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,<sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

What four spiritual experiences become the basis for humility and unity?

- If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ – faith in Christ
- If any comfort from his love – agape love, unity
- If any common sharing in the Spirit – work together for the cause of Jesus Christ
- If any tenderness and compassion – kindness, share sorrow and meet the needs of others

Paul used the word “if” meaning that because believers had these realities in common, they should be united.

In what way would humility and unity help fulfill Paul's joy?

- be like-minded – having the same values and purpose
- have the same love – God's kind of love that Christ demonstrated
- be united in spirit and one purpose – focus emotions and will toward one aim

What circumstances in life tempt people to ignore the instructions in these verses?

- some people can be hard to love
- selfish ambitions
- some have no desire to unite with others
- some people believe they are better than others – in competition with others
- feel they were done wrong

Christians need a clear understanding of humility. It is not a weakness. It is a healthy, balanced view of ourselves. It is a recognition of our strengths and weaknesses. It is being comfortable with ourselves and strong enough to make a deliberate commitment to others' welfare. It is self-knowledge and self-acceptance that refrains from judging others but looks for the good in others. We should look out for the needs and interests of others just as we do for ourselves.

When have you benefited from someone who looked out for your interests?

- someone helped you change a flat tire
- someone caught your attention when you dropped something (money, credit card, keys...)
- a person may have paid for your food at a drive thru
- believers at church prayed for you when you were sick
- neighbors cleaned up your yard

How can we value others over ourselves in practical ways?

- willing to help
- willing to spend your resources for someone else in need
- sacrifice to help our family, neighbors, friends, church members
- involved in the church's benevolent ministry
- provide a meal when he/she is sick

As we seek to be mindful of others, we need to look to Jesus as our example of humility.

Philippians 2:5-8: In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Paul presented Christ to the Philippians as the model they were to follow. The Philippians as well as us are to have the same mindset as Christ. We should live with humility, self-sacrificing, self-giving, obedient, and service to others.

What did Christ do when He became a man?

- He was/is God
- He did not use His deity selfishly
- He limited Himself of many of His divine characteristics (omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotent)
- He was a servant
- Jesus chose to follow God's will
- He humbled himself and was obedient to the Father's will

How is Christ the best example of humility and unselfishness for us?

- assumed the role of a servant
- lived in a human body
- became obedient to death ... on a shameful cross

Why did Christ come to earth as a human?

- He came to fulfill God's promises
- He wanted to reveal God to humanity
- He came so that we could become sons of God
- He came to die for the sins of mankind
- He came to destroy the works of the devil
- He came to be an example for the believers

Not just anyone could be willing to give up so much for others. Jesus gave it up for all sinners. He suffered a cruel death on the cross because He loved us that much. Christ's example of humility should challenge us. Paul said our attitude should be the same as Christ. We should give of ourselves for the good of others.

Since Jesus is our example of humility, grumbling, complaining, and arguing should have no place in our relationships.

Philippians 2:12-15: Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

How do believers place the needs of others before their own without grumbling and arguing? Believers are to constantly work at living a life submitted to Christ. We can live this life because Christ is at work in us. It is God who supplies the empowerment of Christians to obedience.

Paul supplied the Philippians with the who, where, what and why of Christian empowerment.

Who = It is God who is working in you

Where = in you, the body of Christ

What = God enabling them to will and to work, Christians rely on the Holy Spirit

Why = to work according to His good purpose is Christian submission

Paul reminded the Philippians that they were not left to their own inadequate resources. God was present to work in each of them and in the church to produce the desire or will and to enable them to work effectively on behalf of His redemptive purpose. Because God works, therefore we work. We do not work alone. God is working with us.

What did Paul appeal to the Philippians to avoid?

- Grumbling – complaint or displeasure -could refer to as murmurings or gossip
- Arguing – evil thoughts, anxious reflections, disputes, doubts

Instead, how were they to act?

- blameless
- pure
- shine like the stars of the universe
- obey God, even when people aren't watching

What strategies have helped you fight the urge to grumble, complain, or argue?

- pray for the person who is aggravating you
- surrender your emotions to God
- claim the Spiritual armor (helmet of *salvation* for your mind, breastplate of *righteousness* for your emotions, etc.)

How will NOT complaining and arguing encourage others to be drawn to Him?

- people don't like to be around all that negativity
- people hear enough complaining and arguing in their own lives ... why would they want to experience more
- a positive and cooperative attitude will contrast with the world's outlook
- people will enjoy and be encouraged by positive attitudes and cooperation

The Greek term for stars means radiance, luminaries or life-giving bodies. Stars could refer to any object that gives light, such as lanterns, torches, sun or moon. Christians are to be light bearers in a sin-darkened world as they let Christ, "the light of the world" shine through them. The contrast between Christians and unbelievers is to be as sharp as the difference between light and darkness. The light they give come from Christ within them.

## Application

Pray for humility. *God wants to bless us with humility because having a humble and teachable spirit allows us to experience more of the joy and peace he offers.*

Seek out leaders who demonstrate humility.

Pray for those you may disagree with.

Be aware of people, TV, or social media that may interfere with your positive attitude.

Practice kindness.



Humph! Some nincompoop didn't **yield** to their instructions. That's how the words got all in a kerfuffle. They go up, down, right, left and diagonal. You can find help at <https://tinyurl.com/ycpm9q2x> Oh,