

15. Bear in mind that Paul is talking about our mind, our way of thinking; nevertheless in what practical ways can we do the things he writes about in verse 3 and 4?

Pray

Pray for our unity as a church at St James, that in our own thinking we would follow Paul's exhortation and Christ's example.

Pray for those who are in positions of leadership in our nation and others. Pray that they would humble themselves before God and that we would value humility in our leaders.

Pray for those who struggle with low self-esteem and that knowledge of God's love and how much Christ was willing to give for them, would help them to see their true value.

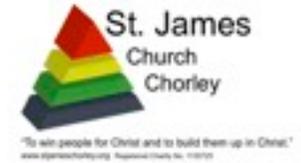
Pray for Chorley Help the Homeless as they receive our Harvest Gifts and for Storehouse at Living Waters, Christians against Poverty and others working with people in need.

*David Phillips,
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Philippians

Study 4 : Christ's Example

Philippians 2.1-11



Unity and Joy

Read Philippians 2.1-4

1. The Philippian church had begun through Paul's ministry. How would their unity or lack of it impact on him?

2. In the previous study we looked at the sort of unity described in chapter 1 verses 27-30. How does chapter 2 verse 2 particularly show us the sort of unity Paul desired to see?

3. In letters to other churches Paul had to confront false teaching and immorality which tear apart the body of Christ. There is no mention of such things in Philippi but what other things do we see in verse 3 and 4 that cause disunity and how does that happen?

Christology *(the doctrine or truth about Christ)*

Read Philippians 2.6-11

4. What do verses 6 & 7 tell us about Christ before the incarnation? *(Incarnation means to become flesh, as in John 1.14.)*

5. What do verses 7 & 8 tell us about the incarnation of Christ and its purpose?

6. What does verse 9 tell us happened next, and about Jesus now?

7. What do verses 10 & 11 tell us about the future?

Christ's attitude

Read Philippians 2.5

Pity the translators. The ESV translation has "mind" in verses 5 and 2, as in "this way of thinking". The 1984 NIV translation has "attitude", which was more modern at the time. Now however "attitude" for many can mean bold or bolshy.

8. Despite the amazing truths about Christ in verses 6-11 Paul wants us to think about His mind. What do Christ's actions show us about His way of thinking?

The key phrase in the passage is in verse 8; "he humbled himself".

9. Poor self-image and poor self-esteem are big issues today, either because people struggle more with them or because we just talk about them more. What are they and how do they come about?

10. What is the difference between having a poor self-image and being humble?

11. Is it possible to have good self-esteem and still be humble?

12. How should knowing what Jesus did for us help people have a better view of themselves? Are there other Bible passages you might point someone to if they struggle with such feelings?

Completing Paul's Joy

13. Going back to verses 1 to 4, how can we try to ensure that at St James we have the same mind, same love and full accord?

14. Is this the same as agreeing about everything?