

BEING OTHERS-CENTERED **PHIL. 2:1-4**

*Okay, we need to **MAKE JESUS NUMBER ONE** and we need to make the **BEST OF THIS EARTHLY LIFE**—how do we model that? **BY BEING OTHERS-CENTERED.***

UNITY AND FOCUS

Paul knew that there is a difference between **UNITY** and **UNIFORMITY**.

1. True spiritual **UNITY** comes from within each believer; it is a **MATTER OF THE HEART**.
2. **UNIFORMITY** is the result of **PRESSURE FROM WITHOUT**. Being pressed into a mold—which is really bad because we are not all the same, nor should we be.

2. THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

Since all believers are “in Christ,” we should have the **HUMILITY OF CHRIST**.

- Then work toward unity and love—not division, self-seeking vanity, and rivalry.
- There will be little or no joy in the life of the Christian who puts himself above others.

HUMILITY IN CHRIST is that **GRACE-FILLED LIVING** that when you know you really have it and live it, **YOU GIVE IT AWAY . . .**

FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

3. FOUR “IF” CLAUSES – v. 1

PAUL GAVE FOUR RESULTS OF BEING IN CHRIST:

1. PAUL KNEW THE BELIEVERS EXPERIENCED ENCOURAGEMENT FROM BEING *united with Christ.*
2. ALL BELIEVERS HAD *comfort from His love.*
3. ALL BELIEVERS SHARE *fellowship with the Spirit.*
4. FOR ALL BELIEVERS PAUL COMBINED *tenderness and compassion*—as if he were saying, “*have tender compassion for each other.*”

SUCH CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER UNIFIES
THE BODY OF CHRIST.

4. FOUR RESULTS OF BEING OTHERS-CENTERED — v. 2

1. Because of their common experience in Christ and their common fellowship with the Holy Spirit, the believers should then be “**like-minded.**”
2. Paul also wanted the church to have “**the same love.**”
3. Jesus had prayed for future believers, “that they may be one.” (**John 17:22**) The church ought to be “**one in spirit.**”
4. As we stand firm in the Spirit, we overcome small differences and work forcefully toward “**one purpose**”—a common goal. (**Phil 3:14-15**)

5. WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION? – v. 3

HERE PAUL IDENTIFIES SOME PROBLEMS GRATING ON THE CHURCH—which are alive and well today, too!

1. Members in the Philippian church were causing discord by their attitudes or actions.
2. They desired recognition or distinction, not from pure motives, but merely from *selfish ambition*.
3. They were creating splits and factions—dividing the body.
4. They were *conceited* (which is their excessively favorable opinion of themselves or their abilities), which caused them to place themselves above others.

6. BEWARE OF COMPARISONS

People often compare themselves to others to excuse their behavior or to bolster their pride. We become ME-Centered and a **CHRISTIANIZED NARCISSISM** sets in.

1. We may look at people who are worse off and think that we are pretty good in comparison to their life.
2. Selfish conceit has no place in a believer's life.
3. Such pride undermines the oneness vital to the church.

Instead, we ought to give other believers the value and respect they deserve and compare ourselves to how well we shine for Jesus.

7. SCOPE IT OUT! – v. 4

The word translated “look” in **VERSE 4** is **skopein**, used by Paul to mean “regard as your aim”—**TO SCOPE OUT**.

- A sure cure for conceit and ambition is an appreciative, watchful eye toward others’ good qualities and their walk with the Lord.
- It is easy to get caught up in competition, aggressive acquiring, and vying for our own rights and needs.

**LIVE EACH DAY YOU HAVE LIKE JESUS LIVED HIS:
*OTHERS-CENTERED.***