

## Change Your mind!

Part 1 of Finding Joy in Life (Philippians)

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Finding Joy in Life Part 2

**Intro:** As mentioned last week, if there were two words that describe the theme of Philippians it would be “joy” and “mind.” God wants his children to live a life of joy, but this is not some joy based on circumstances. If it were, we would rarely have any joy! Rather, it is a mind-set based on Christ and His Word that needs to be embedded.

Let’s look at our text:

Phil. 2:1-11 *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

### 1. Be like-minded - vs. 1-2

- Note he DOESN’T say to be “same-minded,” because that would be pretty boring and useless.
- He says “like-minded,” which means to be united on one purpose.
- As a body of Christ, we have one faith, one Saviour, and one mission

James 1:19 *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”*

### 2. Be humble-minded - vs. 3-4

- You see, true humility doesn’t think less of yourself.
- True humility simply thinks of yourself ... less.
- You just have less time to focus on yourself because you are busy serving others

Compare with:

Romans 12:10 says, *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another”*

Galatians 5:13 – *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*

Ephesians 5:21 – *“submitting to one another in the fear of God”*

And 1 Peter 5:5 – *“Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”*

### **3. Be Christ-minded** - vs. 5-11

Phil. 2:5 *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”*

- *Vs. 7 - Christ emptied Himself (kinosis) - that is of his glories He left in heaven to come to be one of us*

Heb. 4:15 *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*

- He lived a 100% human life, dependent on God like we are
- He was 100% God and 100% human, but without sin
- Why?

2 Cor. 8:9 *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

#### **Questions:**

1. How is “like-minded” different from being “same-minded?” What happens in a church if the people are not like-minded?
2. What is it about today that makes it so hard for many to be humble? How can we show greater humility?
3. Have you seriously considered what Christ emptied Himself of to come be one of us? How should that make us feel in response?

**Prayer:** *“Father, thank You for the joy we have in Christ regardless of circumstances around us at any given time. Help me to find joy in being like-minded with my brothers and sisters in Christ, by being humble-minded and focusing less on myself, and by being Christ-minded by following His example of emptying Himself for others. Thank You for Your grace, mercy, and endless love. In Jesus’ name, amen!”*