

**LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD
HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST-PT 1
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2 (VS 5)**

INTRODUCTION

We have looked over the last four weeks at how some very important **LINEs** are being **BLURRED** by those who are **EVIL**. We saw how **THE LINEs OF GOD'S AUTHORITY, THE LINEs OF GOOD AND EVIL, THE LINEs OF GENDER AND SEX, and THE LINEs OF REALITY** have been **BLURRED** and continue to **BE BLURRED**.

In *vs 15* of our text today, **PAUL** called the **NATION** where the **PHILIPPIAN CHURCH** was located both **CROOKED** and **PERVERSE**. The word "**CROOKED**" means "*warped.*" (i.e. "*not straight.*") The word "**PERVERSE**" means "*morally corrupt.*" Those two terms are a pretty good characterization of what we see in our own nation today!

The **STANDARDS OF DECENCY** that many of us grew up with have been lowered or even erased in our day to such an extent that there are almost no **STANDARDS OF DECENCY** left except among the most ardent followers of **CHRIST**! This **DEPRAVITY** and **SIN** of our day are much like the **DAYS OF NOAH** when **GOD** eventually had enough and destroyed the world with a flood!

CROOKEDNESS and **PERVERSITY** are all around us today! And there is constant pressure upon us who are the **CHILDREN OF GOD** to **CONFORM** to those ways of this **SINFUL WORLD**!

So, how are **BELIEVERS** suppose to live in the midst of such a **SINFUL NATION** and **WORLD**? When we were in the **BOOK OF ROMANS**, we saw **PAUL** explained it in the words of *Romans 12:1-2*.

Romans 12:1-2— "1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

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In this **EPISTLE** to the **BELIEVERS** at **PHILIPPI**, **PAUL** gives some further insight into what the **LORD** expects of us! *Philippians 2:5* says, "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*"

Every **BELIEVER** should both **DESIRE TO BE** and **STRIVE TO BE** more like the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**! After all, *Romans 8:29* tells us that we who are **SAVED** are **PREDESTINED** to be **CONFORMED TO THE VERY IMAGE** of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**!

Colossians 3:1-3, tells us that we who are **risen with CHRIST** are to **seek those things which are ABOVE** and that we are to **set our affection on things ABOVE, not on things on the earth**. It says that **our life is hid with CHRIST in GOD** and goes on to tell us that **CHRIST is our LIFE**!

In *Galatians 2:20*, **PAUL** explained his approach to his **new life in CHRIST** this way, "*20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

And, the **APOSTLE JOHN** wrote in *1 John 3:2-3*—"*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*"

Here in the book written to this **PHILIPPIAN CHURCH**, **PAUL** is exhorting **BELIEVERS** to see **CHRIST** as the example for "**LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD**!" That's what I've entitled this short series.

I want to deal with just two verses today as we begin to look at the subject of "**HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST**!"

Let's look at what **PAUL** says here: (*Vs 1-2*) but let's first read *1:27-30* because of that word "*therefore*" in *verse 1*!

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I. *“If there be any consolation in Christ. . .” (Vs 1)*

The word translated “*consolation*” here is related to the word that the LORD JESUS CHRIST used when HE described the HOLY GHOST as “*comforter*.”

John 14:16–“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another *Comforter*, that he may abide with you for ever;”

The word translated “*consolation*” means “*to come alongside to comfort or alleviate misery or distress of mind*.”

Is there any *consolation* in CHRIST? Of course there is!

There is consolation in what CHRIST has done for us!

Hebrews 2:9–“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

Hebrews 2:14-15–“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Romans 5:1-2–“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

There is consolation in what CHRIST continues to do for us!

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

So, is there any *consolation* in CHRIST? Yes, there is great *consolation* in CHRIST!

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II. *“ . . .if any comfort of love. . .” (Vs 1) (... in CHRIST!)*

Think of the *love* that CHRIST both had for us and has for us? Exactly what kind of *love* is that? Our English word “*love*” has been **degraded** and **perverted** by this world. But the “*love*” of CHRIST is far different than the world’s idea of *love*! In fact, the *love* of CHRIST is a *love* that is beyond any and every other kind of *love*!

Romans 5:6-8–“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Is there any *comfort* in that great *love* that CHRIST had for us? Yes, of course there is!

The *love* of CHRIST is a *love* that sought our highest good then and continues to seek our highest good now! So, there is great *comfort* in CHRIST’S *love*!

III. *“ . . .if any fellowship of the Spirit. . .” (Vs 1)*

The word “*fellowship*” means “*a partnering or partnership*.”

Is there any *fellowship* or *partnering* of the HOLY SPIRIT in the lives of us who know CHRIST? Of course there is!

The moment we were saved the HOLY SPIRIT took up residence in our lives to be our *partner* and *helper* in the things of GOD!

A. **The HOLY SPIRIT Partners With Us In Our Prayer Life!**

Romans 8:26–“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

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B. The HOLY SPIRIT Partners With Us In Our Learning!
John 14:26—“*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*”

John 16:13—“*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*”

1 Corinthians 2:12—“*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*”

C. The HOLY SPIRIT Partners With Us In Our Witnessing!

Acts 1:8—“*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

D. The HOLY SPIRIT Partners With Us In Our Maturity!
2 Corinthians 3:18—“*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*”

So, is there any *fellowship* or *partnering* of the SPIRIT in the lives of us who are saved? Well, yes there most certainly is!

IV. “. . .if any bowels and mercies. . .” (Vs 1)
i.e. Pity or sympathy; tenderness and compassion.

What PAUL is referring to here is that if the PHILIPPIANS had any “*bowels and mercies*” toward him as the MAN OF GOD, they would be mindful of what he was telling them.

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I’m not saying this because I am a MAN OF GOD, but because the WORD OF GOD bears it out. There should be great *love* and *compassion* for the MAN OF GOD by the PEOPLE OF GOD for what he is going through as the MAN OF GOD for them!

Now, not to the point that he is worshiped, mind you! But the MAN OF GOD is to be respected and FOLLOWED as he FOLLOWS CHRIST!

It is obvious from reading the BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS that these folks had great *love* and *compassion* for the APOSTLE PAUL and what he was going through as the MAN OF GOD!

(*Cf. 4:10, 14-19*) Compare that to what we see in *Galatians 4:11-16*.
Hebrews 13:7—“*Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*”

Hebrews 13:17—“*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*”

Are there any *bowels and mercies* for the MAN OF GOD?
Is there any *pity and compassion* for the burden he bears for you?
There should be!

V. “Fulfil ye my joy. . .” (Vs 2)

The only way the BELIEVERS in PHILIPPI could fulfill PAUL’S joy was for him to see **four things in their lives found in verse 2** that should spring forth from the reality of the **four things found in verse 1**.

i.e. If the four things in *verse 1* were true (and they were), then PAUL is saying there were **four specific things** they should do in response. And if they did, that would make PAUL’S joy complete.

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- A. “. . .*that ye be likeminded. . .*”
That word “*likeminded*” means “*of equal soul*” *i.e. to think or set one’s mind together on the same thing!*

What is that *likemindedness* suppose to be?
The MIND of CHRIST! (Vs 5)

How many minds does a normal body have? One!
And CHRIST is the HEAD of the BODY, the CHURCH!
(Colossians 1:18)

So, we each have HIS MIND available to us and we are to be directed by HIS MIND! Listen, if we all HAVE the MIND OF CHRIST and we all WALK ACCORDING TO HIS MIND in all things, then there would always be PERFECT UNITY IN THE CHURCH.

There would never be any *discord, schism, contention or strife in the CHURCH!* There will always be joyous *harmony* as we strive together in the same great work!

- B. “. . .*having the same love. . .*”
What *love* is that *love* suppose to be? The *love* of CHRIST!
John 13:34-35– “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”

(1 John 4:7-12)

- C. “. . .*being of one accord. . .*”
i.e. Of one soul; having your souls joined together.
The particular word translated here does not occur anywhere else in the New Testament. It means *a union of soul; or an acting together as if but one soul actuated them.*

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How many soul’s do we have in our body? One!
Just as schizophrenia is foreign and harmful to our body, so also is *schism* or *disunity* within CHRIST’S body!

- D. “. . .*of one mind. . .*”
The expression “*of one mind*” means “*thinking the same thing.*”
The APOSTLE here is actually using a great variety of expressions to denote the same thing.

The goal—which is *union of heart, union of feeling, union of plan, union of purpose!* He wished them to *avoid all divisions and strife.*

Over and over again we see the importance of *harmony* among BELIEVERS stressed in the NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

Conclusion

Can you see how that CHRIST is our example for living in a SINFUL WORLD?

So, the question for each BELIEVER is this...Whose MIND do we have? Sadly, some in here today may be walking in the vanity of their own mind (flesh); or even the mind of this world.

What CHRIST JESUS wants is for us to have HIS MIND!
It begins with SALVATION FROM HIM!
It requires SURRENDER TO HIM!