

His Mind / My Mind – Philippians 2:1-11

I. INTRODCUTION

A. Read 1:27-30

B. Contrary

1. While most of Scripture defies the wisdom of the world, probably no passage is **SO** contrary as our text today.
2. These verses lay our hearts bare.
 - a. Among us this morning are believers & unbelievers; Christians & non-Christians, saved & lost.
 - b. How each responds to what we're about to look at will make clear which group you're a part of.
 - c. Followers of Jesus will **delight** in this. And as great a challenge as it is, they will ask God to make it their life.
 - d. Those who **aren't** followers of Jesus will find this **absurd**. What Paul writes here will be considered **foolish**.

3. [Pray]

II. TEXT

A. Vs. 1-2

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 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

1. Paul had a warm, close relationship with the church at Philippi.
2. This was a fellowship that was growing in grace, despite being persecuted by the officials.
3. Paul commended them for their exemplary example but as he prayed for them he sensed trouble brewing.
4. That trouble would come in the form of strife among them.
5. In ch. 4 we learn that it had already begun in the form of 2 women who were at odds.
- 4:2 • I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
6. Whatever the cause of their disunity, the **solution** was to be of the same mind.
7. Look at the **emphasis** Paul places on the **mind** in v. 2 as he calls for unity - fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.
8. So often we try to change our **feelings**, our emotions.
 - a. If we're **anxious**, we try to feel **peace**. / **Fearful**, work up **courage**. / **Angry**, seek **calm**.
 - b. But we don't have direct control over our emotions.
 - c. Emotions flow from our thoughts; what we're thinking. The key is the mind.
9. Paul knew about the feud between Euodia & Syntyche.
 - a. We don't know the cause of it. Maybe they both brought lime jello to a church potluck.
 - b. Whatever it was, the conflict had resulted heated emotions.
 - c. The **remedy** was to set aside that minor thing that had caused the rift & remember the far **more important things they shared**, like their love for Jesus.
10. Paul knew what was going on with these 2 was something that could infect the entire fellowship so he urged them to focus on the things that united them **rather** than their minor differences.
11. I've noticed this tendency in some believers.
 - a. Instead of looking for points of agreement & unity,
 - b. They're forever looking for something to argue about.
12. If you look hard enough, you'll find something to disagree with anyone about.
13. Hey, sometimes, we don't even agree with ourselves!
14. So notice what Paul says here –
if *there is* any consolation, any comfort, any fellowship, any affection and mercy, fill up my joy by being like-minded
15. Rather than nit-picking all the things we differ in, we're to be on the look-out for the things we share and that bring us together.
16. This doesn't mean we can't air our differences & talk about where we differ.
 - a. But all of that needs to take place in the context of mutual love & respect.
 - b. At the end of the discussion, we must still embrace each other warmly.

B. Vs. 3-4

³ Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

1. As contrary to the way of the world as this is **today**, it was even **more so** when Paul first wrote it.
2. Even though Western culture has drifted from its Judeo-Christian roots, it clings to a vestige of it, so humility is still considered a virtue.
3. Not so in the Greco-Roman culture in which the Philippians lived.
4. Humility was **despised** as worthy only of slaves.
5. Honored was the man or woman who lived **boldly**; Always looking out for #1.
6. Among the Romans, **ambition** & pride were chief virtues.
7. **Willingly** choosing to go the **other** direction & forsake personal ambition in favor of humility was folly.
8. Yet that's the very thing Paul calls the followers of Christ to pursue.
 - a. They're to give up selfish ambition.
 - b. They're to reject empty pride.
 - c. And they're instead to humbly consider others as better than themselves.
9. Now, we need to be careful **not to add** to what Paul says here.
 - a. 'Lowliness of mind' is one word in Greek & means to be humble.
 - b. It a mind clear of delusion.
 - c. The humble mind is one that sees things **as they really are**.
10. God wants us to see ourselves as we really are in Christ.
 - a. Then He wants us to look at others through that same perspective –
 - b. To see who THEY are in Christ. // Who they are as the image bearers of God.
11. If we took a group picture of all of us right now, then posted a 6 ft. wide shot in the hallway after service, everyone would go out to take a look at it & who would be the first person they'd look for? **Themselves!**
12. **Because** we all have a innate tendency to think about ourselves **first & foremost**, Paul applies a **corrective** & says we must consciously seek to put the emphasis on others. That's what he means when he says

–
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.

13. What others? **All** others. Not just a particular group based on age, or ethnicity, or nationality.
 14. The love we're called to show to one another does not draw the line at the labels this world forever invents.
- C. Vs. 5-8

1. Now we come to holy ground. Using some of the most eloquent words ever penned, Paul speaks of the Incarnation.

⁵ Let **this mind** be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

2. Think like Jesus. We can because the Holy Spirit indwells us & God's Word renews our minds.

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, . . .

3. This drives translators to fits.
 - a. Paul alters words to convey something that defies explaining.
 - b. He's trying to describe the Incarnation; when the eternal, infinite God the Son, became a temporal & finite man.
4. Though Jesus pre-existed as eternal God, He didn't cling to His rights as such.
5. Rather, He **emptied** Himself; He laid aside his glorious majesty & divine power, &
- 7 . . . taking the form [shape] 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.
6. All the words Paul chooses are calculated to make sure we understand that when Jesus became man, He wasn't just pretending. **He really was a human**.
7. When Jesus became man, He didn't **stop** being God. He **retained** His deity.
 - a. Nothing was **lost** in the Incarnation, but something was **added**.
 - b. When God the Son came to Earth, He became & lived as **a man**.
 - c. He didn't work in the power of His deity.
 - d. He lived as God originally intended man to live.

- e. The miracles He performed were done by the power of the Spirit of God.
 - f. The things He said were the Words the Father gave Him.
8. In Jesus we see what Adam was supposed to have been.
 9. And where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded.
 10. Remember in the first temptation in the wilderness after Jesus had fasted for 40 days?
 - a. The devil came to Him & said, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to be turned into bread.”
 - b. The devil was appealing to his identity as God the Son. “Come on, show Who you are. Use your power to satisfy your desire for something to eat.”
 - c. What did Jesus say? Who shall not live by bread alone? “Man!”
 - d. Jesus came to earth as a man, lived as a man, resisted temptation & the best shot the devil could muster as a man, went to the cross as a man, rose from the dead as a man, then ascended into heaven as a man.
 - e. He is still a man; the God-Man.
 - f. And by doing all this he’s recovered what the first man Adam lost.
 11. But the point here is the **example** Jesus gives us in the Incarnation.
 - a. The glorious eternal God laid aside His majestic glory & divine power, stepped into the womb of a Jewish teenager, was born & lived a humble life of service to others.
 - b. Then, in the **ultimate** act of humility, He allowed Himself to be arrested, tried & condemned to death in the most painful & shameful manner imaginable.
 - c. All so that we could be saved from an eternity of shame & pain.
 12. **THAT** mind is to be in us. **That** mind.
 13. [Ants]
 14. The way of the world is to make sure people give **US** the honor due us.
 - a. It’s all about **MY** rights.
 - b. **My** Name. **My** Reputation.
 15. The Way of Jesus is **others**. It’s serving **them**, blessing **them**, advancing **them**.
 16. The test of whether or not we’re really servants is – How we react when we’re treat like one.
 - a. A servant doesn’t get upset when he/she is treated like a servant because that’s what they are.
 - b. If our service waits on thanks or notice, then it isn’t really service, it’s just fishing for recognition.
 17. Jesus became a man & did what He did, knowing that at first only the Father would appreciate what He was doing. Everyone else, including His closest friends bailed on him.
 18. But Jesus did what He did for the approval of One.
 19. That’s how we are to live – for the Approval of One.
 20. If we do – great reward lies in store – as the rest of the passage makes clear –
- D. Vs. 9-11

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. Because Jesus willingly took the lowest place to accomplish our salvation, the Father has exalted Him to the highest place.
2. And one day **everyone** will acknowledge Jesus as Lord.
 - a. Everyone! Every man & every woman who’s ever lived.
 - b. Every angel & every demon.
 - c. The day will come when every knee will bow, and from every tongue will come the acknowledgment that Jesus is indeed the Lord & Master of creation.
3. We who believe in Jesus don’t wait to bend our knee in submission to our Lord & King.
4. We gladly bow to Him now & confess Him as Lord, as Master, as Savior, as God.