

Spiritual Resilience: Standing Firm & Reflecting Christ

Philippians 2:5-16

The Philippian church was a body of believers that Paul knew well and loved deeply. From a jail cell in Rome, he wrote to these first century believers to encourage and guide them through some issues he saw were causing conflict in and amongst them – he wanted them to be built up together with a Christlike attitude, wanted them able to stand firm in the faith, and to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. God wants that for us too!

- **An Attitude to Embrace (vv 5-11)**
 - A Command (v 5a) “Let this mind be in you...”
 - The Resource – Christ’s Example (vv 5b-8)
 - The Result – Christ’s Reward (vv 9-11)
- **A Collective Command (vv 12-13)**
 - To the Beloved...
 - “Work out your own Salvation”
Written to a body of believers (not an individual)
What is Second Tense Salvation?
 - The means – God
- **The Desired Outcome (vv 14-16)**
 - The Command: No Grumbling or Complaining = Remedy for disunity (v 14)
 - Results:
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 - HOW? - Holding fast to the word of life (faith by grace)
 - Future - Rejoicing in the day of Christ

1. Paul tells the Philippians believers to “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ.” He’s talking about an attitude here...a Christlike attitude! But how is it even possible for a believer to develop a Christlike attitude? Paul tells the Romans that they ought to walk according to the Spirit! Kind of a similar mandate, isn’t it? However, this doesn’t happen by imitation, or sheer determination of will or some secret mantra that only those in the know can know...Read through Romans, Chapter 8 – especially verse 5. Now go back to our passage this morning. Do you see any similarities? What do you think this is telling you?
2. Take some time to slowly read through verses 5 through 11 of our passage this morning – it shows us the mind of Christ. It reveals what He was thinking when He stepped out of eternity and into this world! But remember, He was eager to come here, to live this life. He endured the cross because of the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2). His eagerness wasn’t masochism, it was love! He loved us that much! How does this make you feel?
3. Like those Philippians of the past, I believe our church has good teaching and solid doctrine – and those are important areas to protect and defend. However, are there some areas where we might be able to improve our unity. Areas where we might be able to better love one another?

Spoiler Alert – no church is perfect. However, what are some ways that we can encourage one another to grow in faith, to build up our spiritual resilience?

Note: As Paul demonstrated this is a collective command with an individual application...