

Be First At Being Last!

Philippians 2

The church that meets in Hagerstown, MD

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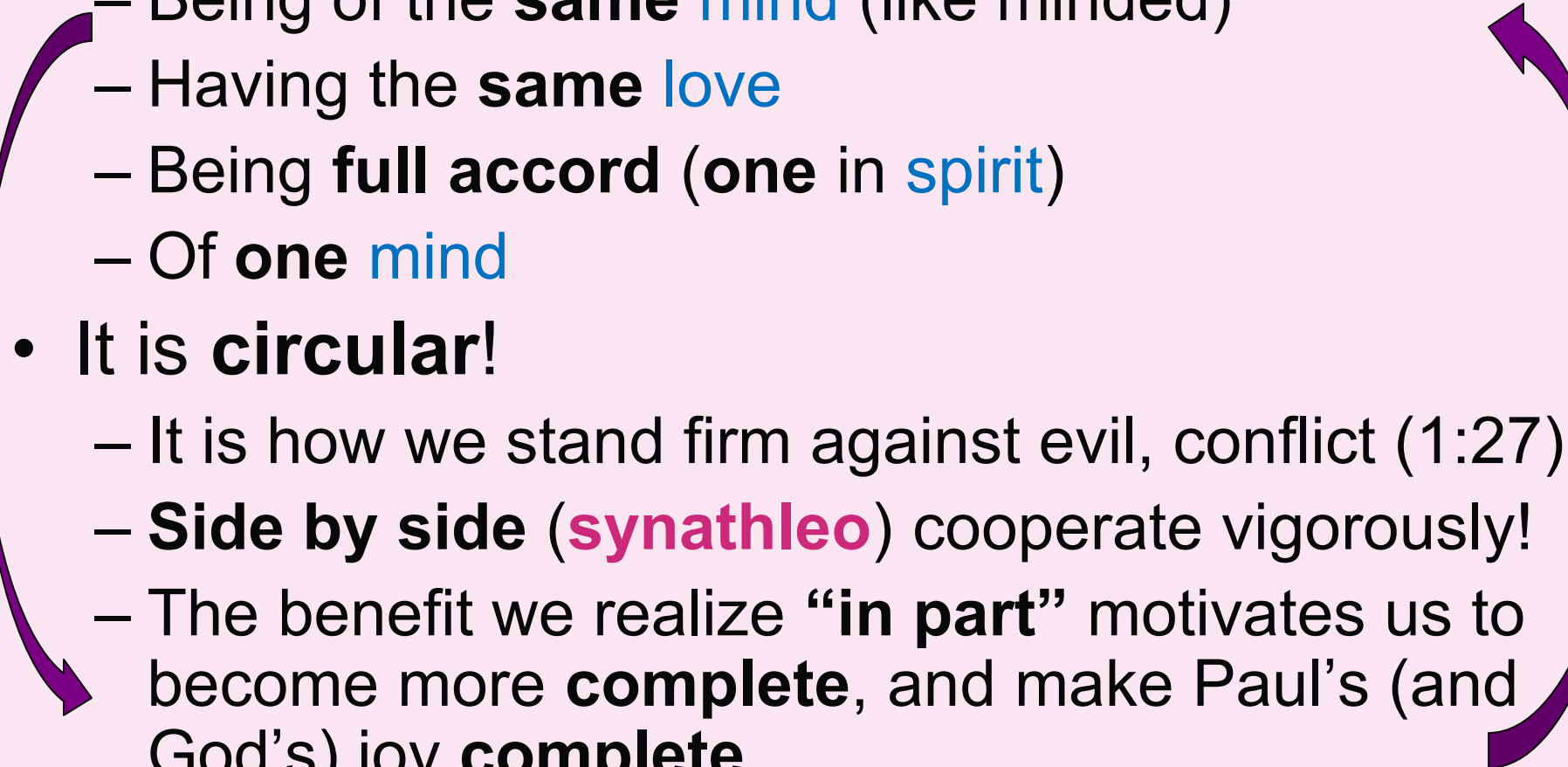
Lessons Learned Phil 1

- We need to have a ***Manner of Life*** worthy of the Gospel
 - i.e., conduct ourselves as citizens of God's Kingdom, governed by His word, Living for Christ
- That requires us to **stand firm** against evil
 - Not only do we believe in Him, but...
 - We may be called to **suffer** with Him
 - Suffering and conflict are not the exception, but the **rule!**
- We are called to be joyful in hardships, **together**
 - **One** spirit, **one** mind
 - For **the** faith, **the** gospel
 - Striving side by side (cooperate vigorously)
 - Without fear

Philippians 2:1

- Even when enduring suffering and hardship (as noted in chapter 1)...
- **If** there is...
 - Any **encouragement** in Christ
 - Any **comfort** from love
 - Any **participation** (common sharing) in the Spirit
 - Any **affection** ... compassion, pity, tenderness (emotion in **bowels**, pull of the **heart**)
 - Any **sympathy** ... compassion, kindness, favor, grace, mercy
- **Any** = “in part”, incomplete

Philippians 2:2

- **Then...** make my **joy** complete by...
 - Being of the **same** **mind** (like minded)
 - Having the **same** **love**
 - Being **full accord** (**one** in **spirit**)
 - Of **one** **mind**
 - It is **circular!**
 - It is how we stand firm against evil, conflict (1:27)
 - **Side by side** (**synathleo**) cooperate vigorously!
 - The benefit we realize “**in part**” motivates us to become more **complete**, and make Paul’s (and God’s) joy **complete**
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Philippians 2:3

- **Do nothing from...**
- Not one, none, no one; i.e., **prevent, guard against**
 - **Selfish ambition** (feud, faction, contention)
 - **Vain** (empty) **conceit**
- **Instead...**
 - In **humility** (lowliness, modesty)
 - Count others more significant than yourselves
 - **Count** (**hEgeomai**) to **lead** the way, to take the lead; to preside, govern, rule, consider, count, esteem, regard
 - **Others** (**allElon**) **one another**, each other
 - **More significant** (**hyperechO**) to hold above, to be higher, superior, **surpassing worth**, supreme (over self)

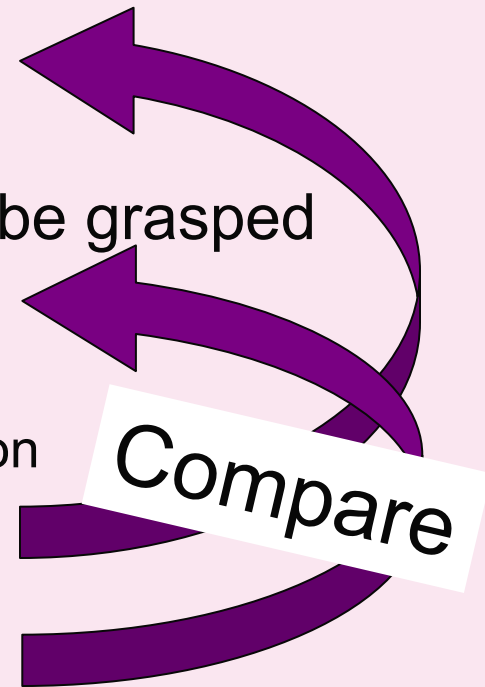
Philippians 2:4

- Let each of you look *not only* to his own interests...
 - **But *also* the interests of others**
- This is the very definition of **agape** love...
 - Servanthood
 - Leadership
 - Lead the way by putting others first
- In other words...
 - **Be First At Being Last!**

Philippians 2:5-7

- **Our Example, the forerunner...**

- Have this **mind** (**phroneO**) among yourselves,
- which was also in Christ Jesus...
- though he was in the **form** of **God**
 - **morphE** — form, outward appearance, nature
- did not count **equality** with God a thing to be grasped
 - **isos** — equal, like, on an equality
- but **emptied himself**
 - **kenoO** — to deprive a thing of its proper function
- by taking the **form** of a **servant**
 - **doulos** — a slave, servant
- being born in the **likeness of men**
 - **homoiOma** — conformed or assimilated; form, shape, figure



Other Human Examples

- **Phil 2:19-22 — Timothy**

- I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be **cheered** by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be **genuinely concerned for your welfare**. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has **served with me in the gospel**

- **Phil 2:25-30 — Epaphroditus**

- I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and **fellow worker** and **fellow soldier**, and your **messenger** and **minister** to my need,
- for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, ***near to death***.
- But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may **rejoice** at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.
- So receive him in the Lord with all **joy**, and **honor such men**, for **he nearly died** for the work of Christ, **risking his life** to complete what was lacking in your **service** to me.

Lessons Learned (1)

As we face suffering, conflict, hardships, sickness, (even threat of death) we are called to...

- Be **joyful** in hardships, without fear
- **Seek** (look for) and **give**
 - **encouragement** and **comfort** *to* each other
 - **share** *with* each other
 - have **affection** and **sympathy** *for* each other
- **Together...**
 - **One** spirit, **one** mind
 - For **the** faith, **the** gospel
 - **Same** mind, **one** mind, **same** love
 - Full accord, **united**
 - Striving side by side (cooperate vigorously)
 - As **fellow workers** (**synergos**) and **fellow soldiers** (**systратиОtEs**)

Lessons Learned (2)

- The key enabler for our **growth, completeness, and success** is:
 - Counting others more significant than ourselves
 - Aka: Taking on the form of a servant
 - Aka: Putting others' needs above our own
 - Aka: Displaying self-sacrificing love (**agape**)
- **Mark 9:35** — “If anyone would be **first**, he must be **last of all** and **servant of all**.”
- These lessons apply to all Christians, but...

Application For Fathers' Day

1. Fathers need to lead, by being the servant of **all**
 - We need to consider our wife, our children, our grandchildren **more significant** than ourselves
 - We may be tempted to allow career, work, hobbies, sports, recreation, or other interests to come before God and family, but...
 - The head of the family must imitate the head of the church (by **emptying himself**, by taking the **form** of a **servant**)
 - We need to **lead** by **being first at being last**
2. As Paul reminds us in **Phil 2:29**, wives, mothers, and children (and other men) need to take time and effort to “**honor such men**”.

Be First At Being Last!