



Joy In Loving Others

At the heart of this passage is unity among the believers. This is a universal appeal to the Church to be 'one' in Christ the Messiah and to love each other. This is **REAL JOY!**

Philippians 2:1-11

:1 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.

: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.

A. There is Joy in Loving Others Because of... *Phil 2:1*

The word "if" in this verse is better understood as "since"

1. My encouragement in Christ *Acts 9:27*
Since there is so much encouragement in Christ...
2. My consolation of love *1 Thes 5:14*
Since His love has such a persuasiveness...
3. My fellowship of the Spirit *2 Cor 6:14-18*
Since the Holy Spirit brings us all together...
4. My affection and compassion
Since there is so much tender affection and mercy...

With all that there is in Christ, the members of His Body should have unity of purpose, affection, accord, and sympathy.

B. There is Joy in Loving Others when we will... *Phil 2:2-4*

Paul says, "Fulfill my joy..." in these six things...

1. Be of the same mind [like minded] :2
2. Maintain the same love :2
3. Be united in spirit [being of one accord] :2
4. Be intent on one purpose [of one mind] :2
5. Remove selfishness [esteem others] :3
6. Regard others as more important :4

The word 'others' in vs. 4 is the key to this passage. As we give our lives for others we rise above the selfish strife of men.

C. There is Joy in Loving Others as Jesus did...

[This passage explains the great 'kenosis' or 'emptying' that is part of the teaching on the incarnation. See 'The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth' Lesson 2 'A Witness to the Light' at VillageAlive.com in the Teaching Ministry section.]

Verse :5 "Let this mind be in you..." connects the 'like mindedness' and 'of one mind' of verse :2 to the example of Christ.

1. Jesus is the selfless preexistent God in heaven :6
2. Jesus is the servant to us taking the form of a man :7
3. Jesus is sacrificial for us by dying for us on the cross :8

D. There is Joy in Loving Others because of the NAME of Jesus... *Phil 2:9-10*

The name of Jesus is above all other names. And it is upon His name that we live our lives with joy. "Rejoice in the Lord [the name of Jesus] always." *Phil 4:4*