

# Philippians 2 • Learning to Think Like Jesus

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent,

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ “So if there is any...” What difference should these things make in our lives as citizens of heaven?
  - Encouragement in Christ?
  - Comfort from love?
  - Participation in the Spirit?
  - Affection and sympathy?
  
- ▶ Looking at [2:3-11](#), how would you describe the “mindset” of Christ Jesus? How did Jesus think?
  
- ▶ If we’re going to grow to think like Jesus, what sort of things do we need to leave behind?
  
- ▶ If we’re going to grow to think like Jesus, what sort of things do we need to put on and practice?
  
- ▶ Let’s think through what Paul says in [2:12-13](#). What is God doing? What does he want to see in me and you? How is he working to accomplish it?

children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, <sup>24</sup> and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

<sup>25</sup> 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, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, <sup>30</sup> for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

### For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Why does God care whether or not we grumble and dispute with each other?
- ▶ What do you think Paul has in mind when he describes “a crooked and twisted generation” (2:15)? Is our world like that today? If so, how? And what difference does that make in our own lives?
- ▶ Looking at 2:19-24, how had young Timothy grown to think like Jesus?
- ▶ The church in Philippi had sent a gift to Paul with Epaphroditus, who was a member of the Philippian congregation. Paul is now sending this letter back with Epaphroditus, who had recently recovered from a serious illness. Looking at 2:25-30, how had Epaphroditus grown to think like Jesus?
- ▶ What about me and you? What can we learn from **Philippians 2** about learning to think like Jesus in our own generation? What might it look like this week?