

The Epistle to the Philippians - No. 7

P H I L I P P I A N S 2: 1-8

The Key to Christian Fellowship and Unity (Verses 1-4)

Let the Philippians heed Paul's, consolation, exhortation, entreaty, persuasion, communion, loving persuasive comfort, and mercy in Christ. Let them make his joy complete:

- * think the same way as he does about the one single aim of unity in
Christian love throughout their total being
 - * allow no strife or seeking empty glory, but in humility actively esteem
the other Christian more excellent than oneself
 - * concern oneself with things other than those which relate to oneself
- This is about as complete a statement on Christian unity as it is possible to make, and the central theme of the epistle.

The Example of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Verses 5-8)

Paul says, think like this (an ongoing imperative), for it is the way our Lord thought:

- * though He came forth in the external form of God, He did not regard
equality ("iso") with God something to be made His very own
- * rather He emptied Himself of the special abilities of deity, taking instead
the external form (see Mark 16: 12) of One who gives Himself to the
service of others by becoming truly human (see John 1: 18; 14: 9)
- * His humanity passing every test or examination, in true humility (as we
should display), obeying fully all human experience in respect of
death, in His case, death by means of crucifixion

In this way it became possible for deity, which cannot die, to taste death for every man. And for humanity, which is subject to death, to taste (experience) life eternal.