

# Philippians

## A Personal Letter from Your Rabbi, the “Prisoner”

I. Paul’s *Introduction* to the **Philippians** (1:1-11)

II. Paul’s *Imprisonment* Perspective (1:12-26)

### III. Paul’s *Instructions* to the **Philippians** regarding **Personal Conduct** (1:27-2:30)

{Part 1 }

A. He *Appeals* for Unity in their **Ministry** of the **Gospel** (1:27-2:2)

<sup>27</sup> Only **conduct** yourselves in a manner **worthy** of the **gospel** of **Messiah**,  
so that whether **I come** and **see you** or remain **absent**,  
I will **hear of you** that you are **standing firm** in one spirit,  
with one mind striving **together** for the **faith** of the **gospel**;

<sup>28</sup> in **no way** alarmed by *your* **opponents**—  
which is a **sign of destruction** for them,  
but of **salvation** for you, and that *too*, from **God**.

<sup>29</sup> For to **you** it has been **granted** for **Messiah’s sake**,  
not only to **believe in Him**, but also to **suffer** for **His sake**,  
<sup>30</sup> experiencing the **same conflict** which you **saw in me**,  
and now **hear to be in me**.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore if there is any **encouragement** in **Messiah**,  
if there is any **consolation of love**, if there is any **fellowship of the Spirit**,  
if any **affection** and **compassion**,

<sup>2</sup> make **my joy complete** by being of the same mind,  
maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

B. He *Admonishes* them to **Walk in Humility** towards  
**One Another** (2:3-11)

<sup>3</sup> **Do nothing** from **selfishness** or **empty conceit**,  
but with humility of mind regard **one another** as more important than  
**yourselves**; <sup>4</sup> **do not merely** look out for **your own personal** interests,  
but also for the **interests of others**.

<sup>5</sup> Have **this attitude** in yourselves which was also in **Messiah Jesus**,  
<sup>6</sup> who, although **He existed** in the **form of God**,  
did not regard **equality with God** a thing to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but **emptied Himself**, taking the **form** of a **bond-servant**,  
and being made in the **likeness of men**.

<sup>8</sup> Being found in **appearance** as a man,  
He **humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient** to the point of death,  
even death on a **cross**.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, **God highly exalted Him**,  
and bestowed on Him the **name** which is **above every name**,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the **name of Jesus** EVERY KNEE WILL BOW,  
of those who are **in heaven** and **on earth** and **under the earth**,  
<sup>11</sup> and that **every tongue** will confess that **Jesus Messiah is Lord**,  
to the **glory of God the Father**.

## Message Summary

### **Paul's Instructions on Unity and Humility**

#### A. His *Appeals* for **Unity** (1:27-2:2)

1. *Entreating* the **Philippians** to **Walk** in a manner **Worthy**  
of the **Gospel** (1:27a)
2. *Exhorting* them to be **United in Ministry** (1:27b-c)
  - a. **Standing firm** in **one spirit**, with **one mind** (1:27b)
  - b. **Striving together** for the **faith** of the **gospel** (1:27c)
3. *Encouraging* them in **their Adversity** and **Suffering**  
(1:28-30)
  - a. Which is a “**sign**” of their **opponent's destruction**, but of **their salvation** (1:28)
  - b. A **suffering** which has been “**granted**” them as **followers** of the **Messiah** (1:29)

- c. A **suffering** that is **similar** to **Paul's present suffering** (1:30)
4. **Expressing** that **his Joy** would be “**complete**” by **their Unity as believers** (2:1-2)
- a. Having been **encouraged** already in **Messiah** (2:1a):
    - by their **consolation of love** (2:1b)
    - by their **fellowship of the Spirit** (2:1c)
    - by their **affection** and **compassion** (2:1d)
  - b. **Desiring now** that they **complete his joy** (2:2a)
    - by being of the **same mind** (2:2b)
    - by maintaining the **same love** (2:2c)
    - by being **united in spirit**, intent on **one purpose** (2:2d)

## B. His *Admonishment* to **Walk in Humility** (2:3-11)

- 1. The *Exhortation* to embrace **Humility** (2:3-4)
  - a. To **avoid selfishness** and **vain conceit** (2:3a)
  - b. To **regard others** as **more important** than **themselves** (2:3b)
  - c. To **look out** for the **personal interests** of **others** (2:4)
  - d. To **embrace the same humble attitude** of the **Messiah** (2:5)
- 2. The *Epitome* of **Humility**—the **Messiah** (2:6-8)
  - a. **Who** was by **nature God**, but did not regard **His “equal” position with God** (in **glory**) a thing “**hold on**” to (2:6)
  - b. **Who “emptied Himself,”** (of His **position in glory**) and became a **servant**, made in the “**likeness**” of **men** (2:7)
  - c. **Who** as a **man**, **humbled Himself**, and became **obedient** (to **God**) even to the point of **death on a cross** (2:8)
- 3. The *Exaltation* of the **Messiah** (2:9-11)
  - a. **Exalted highly** by **God** (2:9a)
  - b. **Given a name** by **God** that is **above every name** (2:9b-11)
    - 1) A **name** to which **every knee** will **bow** (2:9b-10)
    - 2) A **name** that will be **confessed as Lord**, to the **glory of God the Father** (2:11)

# Personal Application

## Walking in Unity and Humility

{ Selected Scriptures }

Behold, how **good** and how **pleasant** it is  
For **brothers** to **dwelt together** in **unity**! (Psalm 133:1)

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Therefore I, the **prisoner of the Lord**, implore you to **walk** in a  
manner **worthy** of the **calling** with which **you** have been **called**,

with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**,  
showing **tolerance** for **one another** in **love**,  
being **diligent** to preserve the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of **peace**.  
(Ephesians 4:1-3)

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**Before destruction** the heart of man is **haughty**,  
But **humility** goes **before honor**. (Proverbs 18:12)

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**He** has told you, **O man**, what is **good**;  
And what does **the LORD require** of you  
But to **do justice**, to **love kindness**,  
And to **walk humbly with your God**? (Micah 6:8)

To **sum up**, all of you be **harmonious**, sympathetic, brotherly,  
kindhearted, and **humble in spirit**;..(I Peter 3:8)

### { Selected Quotes }

“A **humble person** is more likely to be **self confident**...  
a **person** with **real humility** knows how much **they are loved**.”  
(Cornelius Plantinga)

“I am **persuaded** that **love** and **humility** are the **highest attainments** in the **school of Christ**  
and the **brightest evidences** that **He** is **indeed our Master**.”  
(John Newton)

“**They** that **know God** will be **humble**,  
and they that **know themselves**, **cannot be proud**.”  
(John Flavel)

**Humility** is **not** thinking **less of yourself**,  
it's thinking of **yourself less**.  
(C. S. Lewis)