

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Looking at Yourself Through the Eyes of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

1 A little girl was visiting her grandmother one day and found her grandmother's glasses sitting on a table. When she put them on everything became very blurry. But grandmother could see out of them quite well. They were simply not her prescription. She had different eyes than her grandmother.

Have you ever watched yourself on a video? I video taped a sermon one time to send to a church. As I viewed the tape I was viewing myself through another set of eyes. It wasn't very complementary. When you attempt to look at yourself from another's perspective you see a different you. This is why you should be slow to pass judgment until you've "walked in the other person's shoes".

As a Christian, you need to look at things through the eyes of the Lord Jesus. When you see things through the eyes of the Lord, what do you see? 2

Philippians, chapter 2, verses 1 through 11, gives us His perspective, **If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love,**

if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

¹ ₃

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! ² ₄

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven

¹ v1-4.

² v5-8.

and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ³ ₅

The first thing you see through the eyes of Christ is ...

I. When You Look at the Church – v1-4

When you look at the church. ₆

The church is worth looking at! The church consists of all of us. We are the Lord's family.

The story is told of a pastor who attended his church's national convention. While attending one of the sessions he got word his wife had been stricken with a serious illness. He immediately made arrangements to fly home.

When he arrived home he received a phone call from the convention staff. They had arranged that night to have an all night prayer session for him and his wife!

³ v9-11.

His wife was already improving by the time he reached her bedside. They had been upheld in prayer by their Christian brothers and sisters in a fellowship of love thousands of miles away! Where else in the world can you go and get such fellowship? ⁷

One of the biggest problems the Lord sees in His church is **disunity**. What are some of the factors that cause disunity? Verse 3 tells us. ⁸

The first is **selfish ambition**. ⁴ The literal definition is “party making”; planning or striving to get others to agree with you. Gossip is a sign of this. The attitude of selfishness leads to strife. The goal of it is to create division in the church that always sides with you. You’re boss!

When your ambition is selfish, you are putting yourself in the Lord’s place in your life. ⁹ The Apostle Paul ran into this attitude in Philippians, chapter 1, verse 15, says, **It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.** The

⁴ ἐριθείαν.

Bible doesn't condemn ambition; just selfish ambition. Your ambition needs to be for the Lord! ¹⁰

The second is **vain conceit. ⁵ The phrase means literally “empty glory”; pride. The King James Version translates it **vainglory**. ¹¹ Galatians, chapter 5, verse 26, says, **Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.****

Pride is Public Enemy # 1 in the church because so many sins are rooted in it. It's even a bigger temptation than the accumulation of money and possessions to some people. ¹²

The third church problem listed here is **not having humility. Humility ⁶ means “humbleness of mind”. The New American Standard Version translates this **regard one another as more important than yourself.****

A teenager was learning to drive in the late afternoon in a deserted parking lot and was doing fine. He could start the car, put it in gear, drive forward and reverse

⁵ κενοδοξίαν.

⁶ ταπεινοφροσύνη.

and got the hang of steering pretty well. His instructor decided it was time for him to get out on the street. So he pulled out onto the highway. After a few minutes in the roaring traffic he pulled off onto a side road and stopped. With a sigh he stated, “If it weren’t for those other people, this would be simple.”

If you always have your mind on your own interests, you’re bound to collide with someone else’s interests. The result; division! ¹³

Who is more important in your thinking? The Bible says, Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ⁷ Again, Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ⁸ Unity in the church means putting importance into the interests of others! ¹⁴

The first priority in our church needs to be **unity**; being of one accord, being in agreement. Verse 2 states, . . . **make my joy complete by being like-**

⁷ Ephesians 5:21.

⁸ Galatians 6:2.

minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. We shouldn't be arguing over petty differences. ¹⁵ The church has only one head; Lord Jesus! ¹⁶ Because of our relationship to Christ we are to be united. ¹⁷ Because of His love for us we are to comfort one another. ¹⁸ Because of the presence of His Holy Spirit in us we are to share, have fellowship, with one another. ¹⁹

The second thing you see through the eyes of Christ is . . .

II. When You Look at Yourself – v5-8

When you look at yourself. ²⁰ Your goal is to follow the Lord's example. **Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.** ⁹

Now, notice verse 8, **And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!** ¹⁰ ²¹ In following Christ, you need to strive to be **humble.** ²² The Lord

⁹ I John 2:6.

¹⁰ Philippians 2:8.

commanded, **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" ¹¹ ₂₃

The Lord was **being in very nature God!** ¹² Lord Jesus was God Himself in a human life! He was willing to give up His divine attributes to become a man. ₂₄

He not only humbled Himself to become a man, He was even willing to become a slave! ¹³ ₂₅

In following Christ, you need to strive to be **obedient**. ¹⁴ Lord Jesus became obedient to a death on a cross; a common criminal's execution! ₂₆ He could have called ten thousand angels to His rescue, but He didn't. ¹⁵ He was willing to do this for you! ₂₇

¹¹ Matthew 11:29-30.

¹² v6-7 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

¹³ v7 - . . . taking the very nature of a servant . . .

¹⁴ v8 - . . . he humbled himself and became obedient to death . . .

¹⁵ Matthew 26:53 - Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

How has your obedience been lately? First Peter, chapter 2, verse 21, **To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.** 28

Then, there's the Lord's challenge, **If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** 16 29

The third thing you see through the eyes of Christ is ...

III. When You Look at Your Future – v9-11

When you look at your future. 30

When you look at your future you will see a glorious Lord! He is coming again in all His former glory. 31

Matthew, chapter 24, verse 30, **At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.**

¹⁶ Matthew 16:24.

Titus, chapter 2, verse 13, . . . while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ . . .

Acts, chapter 1, verse 11, “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 28, . . . so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. ³²

The rapture will happen! The judgment will take place! At that point everyone who has ever lived will recognize the Master of the universe – Lord Jesus.

Verses 9 through 11, Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ³³

When you follow His example of humbleness, He has promised to exalt you! **For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.** ¹⁷ ³⁴

The Lord told a couple of stories to emphasize this point. In both of these stories, The Parable of the Pounds ¹⁸ and The Parable of the Talents ¹⁹ a man of authority entrusted his servants with differing sums of money to invest while he was gone.

In the Parable of the Pounds the king not only rewarded the fruitful servants with money but also entrusted them with added responsibility and authority. ³⁵

In the Parable of the Talents the man told the fruitful servants, **Well done, good and faithful servant! You**

¹⁷ Matthew 23:12.

¹⁸ Luke 19:11-27.

¹⁹ Matthew 25:14-30.

have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness! ²⁰ ₃₆

Look at your church, yourself and your future realistically through the eyes of Christ. See how important the church is. See how special you are. See your glorious future He is preparing for you!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

²⁰ Matthew 25:23.