

Philippians
Lesson 2
April 16, 2026



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1

Phil 1:27 “Conduct...worthy of the gospel”

- in one spirit
- with one mind
- striving together for the faith of the gospel

2

Phil 1:29 “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake... to suffer...”

- opposition from without
- dissension within

3

Phil 2:1 “Therefore if” = since, in view of the fact → Therefore in view of the fact that there is:

- Encouragement in Christ
- Consolation of love
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Affection and compassion
= all things needed in suffering!

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Phil 2:2 “Make my joy complete” by:

- Being of the same mind
- Maintaining the same love
- United in spirit
- Intent on one purpose

5

Phil 2:5 KJV “Let this mind be in you...”

NAS “Have this attitude in yourselves...”

- It’s a command
 - In present tense = continuous action
 - Literal translation: “This mind be constantly having in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
- Continually emulate the Lord in denying Himself for the benefit of others.

6

Phil 2:6

KJV “Who, *being* in the form of God...”

NAS “Who, although He *existed* in the form of God...”

“being” = present participle = continuous action

→ the continuous state of being in the form of God from eternity past to eternity future.

That is, when Jesus took on human flesh, He never ceased “being in the form of God.”

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Phil 2:6 “...being in the *form* of God...”

MORPHE = “form”

“...that expression of being which carries in itself the distinctive nature and characteristic of the being to whom it pertains, and thus is **permanently identified** with that nature and character.... Thus the Greek word for ‘form’ refers to that outward expression which a person gives of **his inmost nature**...not assumed from the outside, but proceeds from within.” -Wuest

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Phil 2:6 “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped...”

“...He did not consider this position something He had to hold on to at all costs....He was willing to relinquish His positional equality with God—the comforts and joys of heaven.” MacDonald

9

Phil 2:7-8 “but emptied Himself...”

Main verbs of verses 7-8:

“*emptied* Himself...”

“*humbled* Himself...”

He emptied Himself by doing these things:

“taking the form of a servant...”

“being made in the likeness of men...”

“being found in appearance as a man...”

“becoming obedient to the point of death...”

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Phil 2:7-8 “made in the likeness of men....in appearance as a man...”

The Lord was fully man, but His humanity did not express the whole of His being:

- He had all the qualities of a genuine man that Adam had *before* he sinned.
- He was also Deity (unlike any other man).
- He died as no other man died: He died of His own volition; He dismissed His human spirit.

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Phil 2:5-8 Of what did He empty Himself?

He did NOT empty Himself of His deity or His divine attributes:

- He did miracles
- He was omniscient (Jn 1:47-49; Jn 4:16-19)
- He forgave sins (Mk 2:1-12)

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Phil 2:5-8 What does “emptied Himself” mean?

- Our Lord laid aside something... not the possession, but rather expression of the divine essence. (Wuest)
- He emptied Himself of His positional equality with God and veiled the glory of Deity in human flesh. (MacDonald)
- He retained His complete deity but restricted its manifestations and did not use His divine powers for His own benefit...(He) willingly put aside the insignia of divinity and put on the robes of humanity. (Walvoord)
- He did not lay aside the possession of Deity, but rather the expression of Deity. (Spotts)

13

Phil 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow...”

Isaiah 45:22-23

“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me *every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.*”

14

Phil 2:9-11 “Every knee will bow...”

Romans 14:10-12

“But you, why do you judge your brother? ...why do you regard your brother with contempt? For *we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.* For as it is written, ‘As I live, says the LORD, *every knee shall bow to Me and every tongue shall give praise to God.*’ So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

15

Phil 2:12 “work out your salvation with fear...”

“work out” – NOT ‘work for’

→work out what He has done in you

vs 13 “God Who is at work in you...”

v.12 “work out” = KATERGAZOMAI [ergonomic] = accomplish, finish

v.13 “work in you” =ENERGEO [energy] = put forth power; God’s power at work in us.

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Phil 2:12-13 What will this work look like?

Vs. 14 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing.”

- ‘grumbling, murmuring’ = grumbling inside, a complaining spirit
- ‘disputing’ = takes your complaint out to others; talking to others to get them to take your side.

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Phil 2:15 The believer’s testimony to others:

- blameless = no accusation can stick to you.
 - harmless, innocent, above reproach = not sinless, but sincere, not double-dealing, without deceit
 - (not) crooked = SKOLIOS [scoliosis] = warped, perverse → bending the truth to justify their sin
 - lights in the world = standing out against the darkness
- Eph 5:8 “for you were formerly darkness, but now are you Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.”

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- lights in the world = standing out against the darkness
- holding fast / forth the word of life = both continuing in and sharing their faith

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Phil 2:17-30 Three examples of selfless service:

1. **Paul**; Vs 17-18
--willing to die for the Lord; Phil 1:21-25
2. **Timothy**; Vs. 19-24
--a dependable servant, Phil 2:22
3. **Epaphroditus**; Vs 25-30
--a dedicated servant, Phil 2:30

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Lessons from Philippians 2:

1. God's Holy Spirit uniting us ought to bring unity in our service for Him. vs 1-4
2. Christ is our ultimate example of humble, selfless service. vs 5-8
3. A day is coming when every knee will bow to Him, and everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. vs. 9-11
4. A grumbling, complaining spirit is out of place in a child of God. vs 14-15
5. Don't let it be said of you, "For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus." vs 21