

Philippians 2:1-2

- Paul continues to focus on unity in the church.
- Philippians 2:1-4 are a long sentence that is focused on making Paul's "joy complete" by being "like-minded". All the ministry, demonstration and teaching that Paul has provided will not reach the fullness of his goal if the Philippians are NOT unified.
 - First, 2:1, Paul makes an appeal to the church to strive for unity
 - Second, 2:2, Paul describes unity or "the same mind" as having these characteristics:
 - Having the same love
 - Being in full accord
 - Being of one mind
 - Third, 2:3-4, Paul list some of the objectives of unity and describes how a "one-minded" people will think and behave.
- In Rome Paul recognized envy and rivalry within the church (Philippians 1:15) and experienced the opposition from the selfish ambition of some of the Roman church leaders (Philippians 1:17).
- It appears that Epaphroditus had reported, at least, some minor cases of the same envy, rivalry and selfish ambition that destroyed the "like-minded" unity breaking out in the Philippian church (Philippians 4:2, Euodia and Syntyche). It is possible the situation was bigger than just these two women since Paul is spending the focus of his letter on the issue of unity.
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Philippians 2:1 - "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

1487 [e]	5100 [e]	3767 [e]	3874 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	3890 [e]	26 [e]	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	2842 [e]			
Ei	tis	oun	paraklēsis	en	Christō	ei	ti	paramythion	agapēs	ei	tis	koinōnia			
1	Εἴ	τις	οὖν	παραράκλησις	ἐν	Χριστῷ	,	εἴ	τι	παραμύθιον	ἀγάπης	,	εἴ	τις	κοινωνία
	If [there is]	any	Therefore	encouragement	in	Christ		if	any	comfort	of love		if	any	fellowship
	Conj	IPro-NFS	Conj	N-NFS	Prep	N-DMS		Conj	IPro-NNS	N-NNS	N-GFS		Conj	IPro-NFS	N-NFS

4151 [e]	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	4698 [e]	2532 [e]	3628 [e]		
Pneumatōs	ei	tis	splanchna	kai	oiktirmoi		
Πνεύματος	,	εἴ	τις	σπλάγχνα	καὶ	οἰκτιρμοί	,
of [the] Spirit		if	any	affections	and	compassions	
N-GNS		Conj	IPro-NFS	N-NNP	Conj	N-NMP	

- This verse begins with "therefore" or "so" which means this section is coming in response to the previous verses 1:27-30 expression of the need for the church to stand firm in the face of persecution without being intimidated so that they can fulfil their responsibility to the world for the Lord.
 - The assumption is that the church will not be able to testify to the world and the church will not be able to withstand persecution from the world if the church cannot be "like-minded" and unified.
 - If internal issue are dividing the church then it is clear persecution will extinguish the church. This is true unless the persecution purifies the church and causes the church to unite over something larger than their internal worldly issues.
- The natural man with his diverse personalities, points of view, background experiences, career/personal/family goals, etc. is a difficult creature to convince (manipulate? motivate? force?) to work in unity with a group of other humans who all have their own personalities, backgrounds and goals already intertwined into a collective group with its own unique group leaders, goals, standards, etc. In

fact, given enough time and opportunity these groups (example: churches) will divide because of any one of a wide variety of issues.

- In 2:1 Paul is calling on the church of Philippi to look NOT to human reason or motivation, but instead to God (Trinity) and:
 - The encouragement they have being in Christ today with the hope of tomorrow
 - The comfort they have of being loved by God who is the judge of the world
 - The participation of fellowship with the Holy Spirit who provides the supernatural manifestation of divine affection and sympathy in their own characters
- “Encouragement” - the Greek **paraklesis** which can be translated “encouragement” or “exhortation”.
 - Christ’s resurrection and power over ALL should make everything else (church position, personal standing, offensive behavior/comments, etc.) fade
- “Comfort from love” - A person who understands they are loved by God (and, forgiven and being forgiven as they continue to mature) should be able to express that same love (forgiveness) to others
- “Participation in the Spirit” - “participation” is **koinonia** meaning “fellowship”.
 - This indicates that the presence, power and passion of the Holy Spirit himself is within the believer.
 - To fail to manifest the Holy Spirit’s affection (tenderness) and compassion means the person is **REFUSING** to manifest these character traits (fruits) of the Spirit.
- There are four “if”s in 2:1 (Greek **ei**), but these are not unknown. Instead, these if’s are first class condition are usually translated “since”.
 - Paul is making an assumption that is true (4x) in 2:1.
 - These four assumptions are going to lead him to his conclusion in 2:2, which is the imperative “complete my joy”!
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Philippians 2:2 - “complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

4137 [e]	1473 [e]	3588 [e]	5479 [e]	2443 [e]	3588 [e]	846 [e]	5426 [e]	3588 [e]	846 [e]	26 [e]	2192 [e]	4861 [e]					
plērōsate	mou	tēn	charan	hina	to	auto	phronēte	tēn	autēn	agapēn	echontes	sympsychoi					
2	πληρώσατέ	μου	τὴν	χαρὰν	,	ἵνα	τὸ	αὐτὸ	φρονῆτε	,	τὴν	αὐτὴν	ἀγάπην	ἔχοντες	,	σὺμψυχοὶ	*
fulfill	my	-	joy	that	the	same	you might be of mind	the	same	love	having	united in soul					
V-AMA-2P	PPro-G1S	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	Art-ANS	PPro-AN3S	V-PSA-2P	Art-AFS	PPro-AF3S	N-AFS	V-PPA-NMP	Adj-NMP					

3588 [e]	1520 [e]	5426 [e]
to	hen	phronountes
τὸ	ἐν	φρονοῦντες
the	same thing	mind
Art-ANS	Adj-ANS	V-PPA-NMP

- Paul’s “joy” likely refers to the completeness of his work with the Philippians and the full manifestation of his labor as an apostle.
 - See 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
 - Paul desired to be able to present to the Lord on the Day of the Lord a mature group of believers. The results would include rewards for Paul.
- **Phronete** is “like-minded” in the phrase in 2:2a that could be translated, “that you set your minds on the same thing”

- This verb **phronete** is used ten times in Philippians (and, 13 more times in Paul’s other letters; a total of 23 times in Paul’s writings.)
- The letter opens in 1:7 referring to Paul’s attitude toward the Philippians
- The letter ends in 4:10 (2x) referring to the Philippians attitude toward Paul.
- **Phronete** is used again in:
 - 2:5
 - 3:15 (2x)
 - 3:19
 - 4:2
 - Also, note **phronete** is used in Romans 12:3; 12:16 and 15:5
- **Phronete** does NOT mean “to think about; to meditate; to reflect”
- **Phronete** DOES mean “to set one’s mind on”. It is the sharing of a life principle. It includes agreeing on values, people. It is unity of purpose, and in this case, it is unity of a life based on the value of knowing Christ, the Gospel and the Philippian’s shared citizenship in heaven.
- **Phronete** is best defined here by reading 2:6-11.

Philippians 2:3 - “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

3367 [e]	2596 [e]	2052 [e]	3366 [e]	2596 [e]	2754 [e]	235 [e]	3588 [e]	5012 [e]	240 [e]	2233 [e]
mēden	kat’	eritheian	mēde	kata	kenodoxian	alla	tē	tapeinophrosynē	allēlous	hēgoumenoi
3 μηδέν	κατ’	ἐριθείαν	μηδέ	κατὰ	κενοδοξίαν	, ἀλλὰ	τῆ	ταπεινοφροσύνη	, ἀλλήλους	ἡγούμενοι
[do] nothing	according to	self-interest	or	according to	vain conceit	but	-	in humility	one another	esteeming
Adj-ANS	Prep	N-AFS	Conj	Prep	N-AFS	Conj	Art-DFS	N-DFS	RecPro-AMP	V-PPMP-NMP

5242 [e]	1438 [e]
hyperechontas	heautōn
ὑπερέχοντας	ἑαυτῶν
surpassing	themselves
V-PPA-AMP	RefPro-GM3P

Philippians 2:4 - “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

3361 [e]	3588 [e]	1438 [e]	1538 [e]	4648 [e]	235 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2087 [e]	1538 [e]
mē	ta	heautōn	hekastoi	skopountes	alla	kai	ta	heterōn	hekastoi
4 μὴ	τὰ	ἑαυτῶν	, ἕκαστοι	σκοποῦντες	, ἀλλὰ	καὶ	τὰ	ἑτέρων	, ἕκαστοι .
not	the things	of themselves	each	considering	but	also	the things	of others	each
Adv	Art-ANP	RefPro-GM3P	Adj-NMP	V-PPA-NMP	Conj	Conj	Art-ANP	Adj-GMP	Adj-NMP

Philippians 2:5 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

3778 [e]	5426 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	3739 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]
touto	phroneite	en	hymin	ho	kai	en	Christō	lēsou
5	τοῦτο	φρονεῖτε	ἐν	ὑμῖν ,	ὃ	καὶ	ἐν	Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ;
This	let mind be	in	you	which	also	in	Christ	Jesus [was]
DPro-ANS	V-PMA-2P	Prep	PPro-D2P	RelPro-NNS	Conj	Prep	N-DMS	N-DMS

Philippians 2:6 - *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

3739 [e]	1722 [e]	3444 [e]	2316 [e]	5225 [e]	3756 [e]	725 [e]	2233 [e]	3588 [e]	1510 [e]	2470 [e]	2316 [e]	
hos	en	morphē	Theou	hyparchōn	ouch	harpagmon	hēgēsato	to	einai	isa	Theō	
6	ὃς ,	ἐν	μορφῇ	Θεοῦ	ὑπάρχων ,	οὐχ	ἀρπαγμὸν	ἡγήσατο	τὸ	εἶναι	ἴσα	Θεῷ ,
who	in	[the] form	of God	subsisting	not	something to be grasped	esteemed it	-	to be	equal	with God	
RelPro-NMS	Prep	N-DFS	N-GMS	V-PPA-NMS	Adv	N-AMS	V-AIM-3S	Art-ANS	V-PNA	Adj-ANP	N-DMS	

Philippians 2:7 - *“but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

235 [e]	1438 [e]	2758 [e]	3444 [e]	1401 [e]	2983 [e]	1722 [e]	3667 [e]	444 [e]	1096 [e]	
alla	heauton	ekenōsen	morphēn	doulou	labōn	en	homoiōmati	anthrōpōn	genomenos	
7	ἀλλὰ	ἑαυτὸν	ἐκένωσεν ,	μορφὴν	δούλου	λαβὼν ,	ἐν	ὁμοιώματι	ἀνθρώπων	γενόμενος .
but	himself	emptied	[the] form	of a servant	having taken	in	[the] likeness	of men	having been made	
Conj	RelPro-AM3S	V-AIA-3S	N-AFS	N-GMS	V-APA-NMS	Prep	N-DNS	N-GMP	V-APM-NMS	

Philippians 2:8 - *“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

2532 [e]	4976 [e]	2147 [e]	5613 [e]	444 [e]	5013 [e]	1438 [e]	1096 [e]	5255 [e]	3360 [e]	2288 [e]	
kai	schēmati	heuretheis	hōs	anthrōpos	etapeinōsen	heauton	genomenos	hypēkoos	mechri	thanatou	
8	καὶ	σχήματι	εὑρέθεις	ὡς	ἄνθρωπος ,	ἐταπεινώσεν	ἑαυτὸν ,	γενόμενος	ὕπηκοος	μέχρι	θανάτου ,
and	in appearance	having been found	as	a man	he humbled	himself	having become	obedient	unto	death	
Conj	N-DNS	V-APP-NMS	Adv	N-NMS	V-AIA-3S	RelPro-AM3S	V-APM-NMS	Adj-NMS	Prep	N-GMS	

2288 [e]	1161 [e]	4716 [e]
thanatou	de	staurou
θανάτου	δὲ	σταυροῦ .
[the] death	even	of [the] cross
N-GMS	Conj	N-GMS

Philippians 2:9 - *“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,*

1352 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	846 [e]	5251 [e]		2532 [e]	5483 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	3686 [e]	3588 [e]	5228 [e]	3956 [e]	3686 [e]	
dio	kai	ho	Theos	auton	hyperypsōsen		kai	echarisato	autō	to	onoma	to	hyper	pan	onoma	
9 διὸ	καὶ	ὁ	Θεὸς	αὐτὸν	ὑπερύψωσεν	,	καὶ	ἐχαρίσατο	αὐτῷ	τὸ	ὄνομα	τὸ	ὑπὲρ	πᾶν	ὄνομα	,
Therefore	also	-	God	him	highly exalted		and	granted	to him	the	name	-	above	every	name	
Conj	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	PPro-AM3S	V-AIA-3S		Conj	V-AIM-3S	PPro-DM3S	Art-ANS	N-ANS	Art-ANS	Prep	Adj-ANS	N-ANS	

Philippians 2:10 - “so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2443 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	3686 [e]	2424 [e]	3956 [e]	1119 [e]	2578 [e]	2032 [e]		2532 [e]	1919 [e]	2532 [e]	2709 [e]	
hina	en	tō	onomati	Iēsou	pan	gony	kampsē	epouraniōn		kai	epigeiōn	kai	katachthoniōn	
10 ἵνα	ἐν	τῷ	ὀνόματι	Ἰησοῦ	πᾶν	γόνυ	κάμψη	, ἐπουρανίων		καὶ	ἐπιγείων	καὶ	καταχθονίων	,
that	at	the	name	of Jesus	every	knee	should bow	in heaven		and	on earth	and	under the earth	
Conj	Prep	Art-DNS	N-DNS	N-GMS	Adj-NNS	N-NNS	V-ASA-3S	Adj-GMP		Conj	Adj-GMP	Conj	Adj-GMP	

Philippians 2:11 - “and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”