

# PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In  
The Lord!

Think  
Like Jesus

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Lesson Fourteen

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to have the attitude of Christ.

**Scriptures:** Philippians 2:3-5

**For Memory:** “Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 2:5

### Think Like Jesus

In our last lesson, we said that we should be united together for a purpose. The Apostle Paul had something specifically in mind. He encouraged us to be together, united, to love one another, to minister to one another, to help each other to be people who live like Jesus lived.

First, Paul points out a serious problem. Many people do things that may be good, but are done for the wrong reasons. He says that we should not do anything that calls attention to us. Don't do anything that makes us look good, just because we want others to brag on us.\* He says that we should always think of other people as being better than us.

Actually, the Apostle is saying again here what he said in verses one and two of this chapter. He said the same thing, but in different ways. Think about it, he said, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...” - You ought not to put yourself out in front—that’s humility.

“...but in humility consider others better than ourselves.” - Put yourself and your welfare behind that of other people—that’s humility.

“...look not only to your own interests...” - Your stuff is not more important than other people’s stuff—that’s humility

“...(look) to the interests of others.” Make good things for others more important than good things for you—that’s humility.

So, Paul had just defined humility for the Philippians and his words do that for us today. He was moving toward a specific goal. He had heard that there were arguments and disunity among the people in Philippi. He was not willing to say, “Just get it together.” He gave them a step by step map for unity. And, he had said in verse one, base your unity on your relationship with Christ and His Holy Spirit. In the second verse, he said that they should think together. With fellowship based on Jesus, and putting their minds together, they were to humbly move together to one purpose.

And now, what was that purpose? It is stated in our memory verse for today. Paul wanted his dear friends in Philippi to **think like Jesus**. He was not talking only about thinking. When we think, our thoughts are processed through our attitudes. In the New International translation of Scripture, the word is actually translated *attitude*.

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Jesus' attitude was just like what Paul had described. Jesus did not think of Himself. He came to earth thinking of us. He lived and died, thinking of us. He taught His disciples, thinking of them. He rose from the grave, thinking of us. He ascended back into Heaven where, the Bible says, He is currently sitting on the right side of God and talking to God on our behalf.

What the Apostle was telling the Philippians and is telling us: Not only are we to act like Jesus, we are to think like Jesus, and that means that we are to have the same internal feelings as Jesus. Jesus wasn't a bad person in any way. He was perfect. Even so, He allowed humans to capture Him, put Him through an unlawful trial, convict Him of a crime He didn't do, and put Him to death in the worst way. If that happened in our day, He would be strapped to a gurney and have drugs injected into His body until He died. Jesus regarded us more important than Himself, even though He was much better than any of us could ever be.

How was Paul expecting the Philippians to think and behave? Just exactly like Jesus would. He put others first, we should do the same thing. That's thinking like Jesus. Jesus was the most humble man who ever lived. We should try being like that!

In our next lesson, we will learn much more about how Jesus thought and behaved.

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.



### Teaching Tips:

1. This lesson has concepts that may be a little difficult for some to understand. You, the teacher should feel that you understand it before you try to teach it.
2. Songs that emphasize Christian compassion, serving other Christians, humility, and loving others would be appropriate.
3. Pray with your students asking God to teach us about loving others more than ourselves.
4. Thank God for Jesus and His willingness to come to earth and be our example.
5. Some related Scriptures are: I Corinthians 10:24, the Corinthians had the same difficulty as the Philippians; Matthew 20:27, 28, Jesus is our example; Matthew 23:11; Mark 10:42-45; Acts 10:25, 26, leaders demonstrate humility. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "... the law of the Christian life is renunciation, not self-assertion; concern for others, not concern for ourselves and our precious rights." Life Together, P 109

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### *Student Worksheet*

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**For Memory:** "Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus."  
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### Think Like Jesus

=Many people do things that may be good, but are done for the \_\_\_\_\_ reasons.

Paul says that we should not do anything that calls \_\_\_\_\_ to us. Don't do anything that makes us \_\_\_\_\_, just because we want others to \_\_\_\_\_ on us.

=Paul wanted his dear friends in Philippi to \_\_\_\_\_. He was not talking only about \_\_\_\_\_. Our thoughts are processed through \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes.

=Jesus did not think of Himself. He came to earth thinking of \_\_\_\_\_. He lived and died, thinking of \_\_\_\_\_. He taught His disciples, thinking of \_\_\_\_\_. He rose from the grave, thinking of \_\_\_\_\_. He ascended back into Heaven where, the Bible says, He is currently sitting on the right side of God and talking to God *on \_\_\_\_\_ behalf*.

=Not only are we to act like \_\_\_\_\_, we are to think like \_\_\_\_\_, and that means that we are to have the same internal feelings as \_\_\_\_\_.

=How was Paul expecting the Philippians to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_? Just exactly like \_\_\_\_\_ would. He put others first, \_\_\_\_\_ should do the same thing.

=Jesus was the most \_\_\_\_\_ man who ever lived. We should \_\_\_\_\_ that!

### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.