

PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 3 – “The Creative Minority”

DAY 15

Begin this week by reciting Philippians 2:2

Memory Verse:

Philippians 2:2

² *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

Now try to say it from memory.

Reflect: Being like minded does not mean all Christians think the same way. It doesn't mean we agree on everything. It certainly does not mean we all have the same tastes, interests, or passions. What it means is that we all keep our hearts and minds fixed on Jesus and we have alignment on the things that matter the most. What are some of the core beliefs that all followers of Jesus embrace and that make us distinctively Christian? How does this like-mindedness unite the family of God?

DAY 16 **Read:** Philippians 1 and Philippians 1:27.

Reflect: The Creative Minority of God's people in this world....*will conduct themselves in a worthy manner.* What does it look like to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus? The good news not only saves us from sin, but it transforms our lives. This is the journey of discipleship. It is the pathway Jesus walked. It is the road we are called to travel. What will your day look like if you seek to only to that which is worthy of the Savior who loves you and is walking side by side with you?

Journal:

- What are some of your recurring behaviors, attitudes, and life patterns that are not worthy of the gospel of Jesus?
- What daily actions do you engage in that are worthy of your Savior and the price he paid to save you? How can you increase these in the rhythms of your normal day?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart, mind, and motives and show you any place you are living in ways unworthy of the gospel of Jesus.

DAY 17 **Read:** Philippians 2 and Philippians 1:27

Reflect: The Creative Minority of God's people in this world...*stand firm in the power of the Holy Spirit.* If we are going to be agent of change in this world, it will never be in our own power. The Spirit of God, who dwells within us, offers an infinite reserve of strength and energy to do what honors Jesus. We can ask for Holy Ghost power. We can stand firm in the will and ways of God's spirit. We can unite with other Christians in following the leading

of the Spirit. How often do you pray for fresh filling and power from the Holy Ghost? Are you attentive to the whispers and nudges of the spirit as you walk through each day?

Journal:

- In what ways do you experience the filling of God's spirit and the power he offers?
- How can you increase your attentiveness and responsiveness to the Spirit of God when he speaks and empowers you?

Pray: Ask for renewed commitment to seek fresh filling of the spirit and for boldness to move and act as the spirit leads.

DAY 18 Read: Philippians 3 and Philippians 1:28

Reflect: The Creative Minority of God's people in this world...*are fearless*. Paul calls the believers in Philippi to live with absolute fearlessness! We are not to be frightened in any way by people who oppose us. Any time you are part of the Creative Minority (and Christians are always in this group), there will be opposition, criticism, and sometimes persecution. No matter what we face, fear should not be our response. What pushback do you experience because of your faith and how can you grow bolder and more confident rather than letting fear creep into your heart?

Journal:

- Make a list of people and pressures you face that can come as a form of opposition to your faith in Jesus?
- What are practical ways you can resist and fight back when these people and world systems come against you?

Pray: Ask God to fill you with courage, boldness, and confidence as you face people and circumstances that seek to cause fear in your heart.

DAY 19 Read: Philippians 4 and Philippians 1:29-30.

Reflect: The Creative Minority of God's people in this world...*are willing to count the cost as they follow Jesus*. If you read the Bible from start to finish you will see themes that show up again and again. One of the most consistent refrains is that living in the will and way of God is often difficult. It costs something! Jesus was crystal clear about this. The apostle Paul experienced it. We will face this reality if we are serious about our faith. What price have you paid to follow Jesus and why is it always worth it, even when it is hard?

Journal:

- How have you suffered, been poorly treated, or paid a price for following Jesus?
- How has God used the hard times and seasons of suffering to grow your faith and bring you closer to his heart?

Pray: Pray for your church members who are going through a difficult and pain-filled time of life. Ask for God's grace, comfort, and courage to press forward in their faith.

DAY 20 Read: Philippians 2:1-4 Read this passage slowly and reflectively, two or three times, and hear the call to an attitude of humility.

Reflect: The Creative Minority of God's people in this world... *are united in humble service.* Paul begins by asking if four different things are true . . . and they all are! Next, we are called to live in unity with other believers. When we know what we believe and stand unified with the church, we can take step three... serve with selfless humility. This is radically countercultural, but it is the call on every Jesus follower ... living a life of humility which honors others. Does your belief in Jesus and community with his people infuse you with the confidence you need to serve others with Jesus-like humility?

Journal:

- What four things does Paul ask about in Philippians 2:1? Do you believe that each of these is true?
- What are you called to do if you affirm the four things listed in this passage? What are ways you can go deeper into the practice taught in Philippians 2:2-4?

Pray: Pray for the humility of Jesus to grown within you so that you can serve others with joy and kindness.

DAY 21

Memorize: Conclude this week's personal study by again reciting **Philippians 2:2:**

²Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Reflect: The apostle Paul invites followers of Jesus to a place of deep unity and harmonious community. In this one short verse we are called to be united in thought, love, and spirit. Try to imagine a local church, a group of Christian friends, or a family that stands with their minds, hearts, and spirits in harmony. This is the way of Jesus. It is what Paul wanted for the church in Philippi and it is what Jesus wants for each of us. Where do you struggle with disunity and conflict with other believers? How can you take steps toward finding unity in these three areas of your faith? As you read, memorize, and meditate on this verse, let God draw you to deeper places of unity with your Christian brothers and sister in your church and all over the world.