

## **Bible Study, Series 4, week 4**

### **Personal Bible Study**

#### **Day: 1**

*Read Philippians 2:1-11*

1. In verse 2 Paul calls the congregation to unanimity. What are the motivations he gives in verse 1?
2. What is the comfort to be had in Christ? Read 2 Corinthians 1: 4-7 and 2 Corinthians 7: 4. The word also means getting help and to be encouraged by Christ.
3. If a congregation has a close spiritual relationship and unity with each other, the faithful get a lot of strength out of the bond of love. This is the "if any comfort of love" he speaks about. A living dynamic Bible Study group can become such a unit. This is part of the solution for a "cold" congregation. How active are you in it yourself?

#### **Day: 2**

*Read Philippians 2: 1-2*

We are looking at the word: koinonia the Greek word translated as "a community" or "fellowship"

The old Greek philosophers like Plato learnt that there is a close bond between the gods and humans. The holiness of God and the imperfectness of humans were not a problem to these heathens.

The Old Testament is completely different. There God is the perfect Holiness and humans the fallen sinners completely rotten and spoilt. The distance between God and humans are shown for instance in Psalm 47:2, 65: 4-5, 66: 2-3 and Isaiah 61: 1-5. The word for "fellowship" in Hebrew is not used for the relationship between humans and God. God is in close relationship with humans as we see in Genesis 5:22, Deuteronomy 34: 10, Psalm 23 and Isaiah 57: 15 but it is not considered a natural relationship but a very special favor from God.

In the New Testament Paul uses the word koinonia no less than 13 times. God became human in Christ. Lives amongst us and the Holy Spirit in our hearts!

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6: 14-20 and see how close the relationship between God and us is because of the Holy Spirit.
2. How do you experience this relationship?

#### **Day: 3**

*Read Philippians 2: 2*

1. The faithful has a relationship with Christ first of all. Seek the grounds for this relationship in John 15: 1-11, Romans 8: 17 and 6: 6-8.
2. What other meaning for this "relationship with Christ" do you find in Colossians 2: 13, 3: 1, Romans 8: 17, 2 Timothy 2: 12 and Revelations 20: 4?
3. If you want to go deeper into your spiritual life you have to read these verses in a prayerful way and make them your own.

**Day: 4**

*Read: Philippians 2: 2*

Koinonia: fellowship with each other!

1. In what does this fellowship consists according to Philippians 1: 7, 1: 27, 2: 2, 17-18, Romans 1: 12, Ephesians 2: 19 and 3: 6?
2. With which image does Paul describe the congregation according to Romans 12: 3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31? What does it mean for you specifically?

**Day: 5**

*Read Philippians 2: 2-4*

The extraordinary quality of the Philippians' spiritual life was already responsible for Paul's happiness. Now he says they will make it "complete" if they do three things:

1. **"Being of one accord and of one mind"** This unity is set in their love for God and in their love for each other. Through this love they should aspire to one purpose, what is it?
2. **"In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves"** Only a reborn Christian can be so humble and it is one of the most important characteristics of the faithful. How does Paul describe himself in 1 Corinthians 15: 9, Ephesians 3: 8 and 1 Timothy 1: 15?
3. **"Each man also on the things of others"** Be willing to help others. The uniqueness of the Christian faith is demonstrated in the willingness of Christians to help others. What do you do about this?

**Day: 6**

*Read Philippians 2: 9-11*

God is glorified in Christ! When Christ comes again "every knee should bow" and "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" Paul writes about three groups that shall do it:

1. **"Of heavenly ones"** All the saved ones that has died already and the holy angels  
Read Ephesians 1: 21, 3: 10 and Revelations 4: 8-11.
2. **"And of earthly ones"** Those that are still alive when Jesus comes again what does 1 Corinthians 15: 40 tell you about this?
3. **"Ones under the earth"** possibly the lost ones and the "evil" angels they will bow in terror according to Revelations 6: 12-17.
4. Jesus Christ will than be acknowledged as KURIOS: LORD by the whole creation as owner, ruler and king. It is in this name that miracles happen. When you read Romans 10: 9 and Acts 3: 6 and 4: 12 you see that this can happen to you as well, has it?

## **Group Bible Study**

*Read Philippians 2: 1-8*

1. Why is it that so often that, people calling themselves Christians, cannot get along with each other? What are the three reasons Paul gives in verse 3-4?
2. How are a person supposed to go about reconciling Christians that are split amongst themselves?
3. Christians ought to be one in mind at all times.
4. What are the reasons Paul gives in verse 1-2 why it should be like that?
5. How does this bring about a unity in the minds of Christians?
6. Does this unanimity come to its right in today's life if we think of the many different Christian churches that exist? Motivate your answer.
7. Why did Jesus walk the road described in verse 6-8? Read John 1: 29 and Matthew 20: 28.
8. In verse 6-8 Paul describes Jesus' view and disposition. How did this appear in a practical way in Christ's life? Name examples. Read Isaiah 53: 3-7, John 13: 12-15 and Mark 11: 15-18.
9. The Bible says we have to have the same mind and disposition. We are not called to "imitate" Jesus but we have to "take after Him"
10. What is the difference between "imitation" and "take after" as we see it in verse 5?
11. Jesus' way of thinking and disposition needs to be in us. What does it mean for our practical life from day to day?
12. Why is Jesus' example the resolution of the problem of division amongst believers?