

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Completing Joy***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:1-4

## REVIEW

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 1:28-30, Paul calls the Philippian church to fear not and suffer well for the sake of Christ. A life lived in a manner worthy of the gospel will face opposition, but Christians need not be afraid in the midst of persecution because their salvation is from God—it's secure and they will be delivered. Both salvation and suffering are gifts of God's grace to those who trust in Christ.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 1:28-30

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 1.
2. How is Paul's exhortation to "not [be] frightened in anything" connected to a life worthy of the gospel?
3. Why should the Philippians (and us) not be frightened when advancing the gospel?
4. Paul says that God has granted (i.e. graced!) both salvation and suffering. How can suffering for faithfully proclaiming the gospel be a gift from God? Consider Matthew 5:10-12 & 1 Peter 4:12-14
5. How does seeing suffering for Christ as a gift change your attitude when going through that suffering?
6. What might this suffering look like in our specific context?

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 2:1-11. (Focus on verse 1-4 this week – see various translations below)
2. What does the "so" in the first verse refer back to? How are these verses connected to what Paul just said?
3. Notice the repletion of "any." What's the significance of this word? How does this help us understand and apply these verses?
4. Paul mentions four benefits in verse 1. Identify and briefly explain each one. What are these based on?
5. What does it mean to be "of the same mind, having the same love, being of full accord and one mind"?

6. Paul derives much joy from the unity of the Philippian church. Why do you think this is the case? Do you get the same joy from the life of Restoration?
7. About what relationships is Paul specifically concerned about in these verses?
8. What is selfish ambition? What is conceit? What are some tangible ways we are tempted by these things inside the life of our church?
9. What is humility? What does it mean to look to the interests of others?
10. How does humility and selfless other-orientation further the goal of being united in Christ? How does this complete our joy?
11. How could you summarize these verses in a sentence?
12. General Bible study questions:
  - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Do you find joy in the unity of the church? Why or why not? How can you cultivate more humility in your life?

### *Various Translations*

#### **NASB**

2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [a]affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete [b]by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing [c]from [d]selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

#### **NKJV**

2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

#### **ISV**

2 Therefore, if there is any encouragement in the Messiah,[a] if there is any comfort of love, if there is any fellowship in the Spirit, if there is any compassion and sympathy, 2 then fill me with joy by having the same attitude, sharing the same love, being united in spirit, and keeping one purpose in mind. 3 Do not act out of selfish ambition or conceit, but with humility think of others as being better than yourselves. 4 Do not be concerned about your own interests, but also be concerned about[b] the interests of others.

**HCSB**

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, sharing the same feelings, focusing on one goal. 3 Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

**NIV**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.