



ONE
ANOTHER SERIES



Look Out for One Another

PHILIPPIANS 2:3–4



STUDY GUIDE

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STUDY GUIDE • ONE ANOTHER SERIES

Look Out for One Another • Philippians 2:3–4

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share an instance when they made a sacrifice and gave up pursuit of something for another person's or group's interest.

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- [Humility Song](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will have the right paradigm regarding themselves in relation to fellow believers.
2. GG members will esteem others more than themselves.
3. GG members will look out for others' concerns above their own.

INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 2 of Philippians, the Apostle Paul is encouraging the members of the body of Christ to be of the same mind. He qualifies this as having the same love for one another, being in harmony with one another, and being like-minded. The apostle Paul knows this to be a challenge for members of the body of Christ. That is why he makes this appeal in light of four foundational truths of their relationship with Christ: (1) encouragement from being united with Christ, (2) comfort from His love, (3) fellowship with the Spirit, and (4) tenderness and compassion.

The apostle Paul exhorted the believers not to be motivated by their self-centered desires (v. 3a)

For believers to have the same mind, they need to first divest themselves of selfish desires. The Holy Spirit living in them allows them to be transformed more into the image of Jesus Christ. This transformation requires one to stop pursuing their one's selfish desires in order that one may seek unity of mind with fellow believers.

1. Verse three begins with the words "Do nothing." What do you think these words imply?
2. A litotes is a figure of speech where the affirmative is expressed by the negative or its contrary. What is the positive way of stating verse 3a?
3. The apostle Paul had his detractors and he accused the of wanting him harm out of selfish ambition. Read Philippians 1:17 and describe the actions of his opponents.
4. Why do you think the apostle Paul thinks of actions done from the motives of selfish ambition or self-conceit as antithetical to unity in the body of Christ?

Application

Rate your self-centeredness as a motive for doing things in relation to others. Do you think that self-interest is wrong? If not, in what cases does it become self-ambition or vain conceit?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

The apostle Paul exhorted the believers to regard their fellow believers as higher than themselves (v. 3b)

The apostle Paul begins verse 3b with the word “but,” which indicates something contrary to what was said previously, and follows it up with the phrase: “in humility.” Humility is the basis for believers to count others as more significant than themselves.

1. What do you think is the nature of humility? Define the word or concept.
2. Who would be the best example of humility in Scripture? (cf. Philippians 2:5-8)
3. Why do you think this attitude of humility is the basis for the exhortation to count others more significant than yourselves?
4. How is counting others more significant than yourselves consistent with the apostle Paul’s encouragement toward unity in the body of Christ?

Application

What are things that we can immediately do to display humility in our church, in our places of work, and in our homes?

The apostle Paul encouraged believers to have regard for the concerns of other believers aside from their own (v. 4)

In counting others as more significant than themselves, the apostle Paul was not telling believers to abandon their self-interests. Rather, he encouraged them to take into account the interests of fellow believers alongside their own.

1. The apostle Paul appears to teach a balance between self-interest and the interests of others. How is self-interest different from selfish ambition and conceit?
2. Does having a balance between self-interest and the interests of others cancel out selfish ambition and conceit?
3. Which is more biblical between the two, self-sacrifice or win-win thinking? Why?

Application

What are areas in your life where you find it easier not to act out of self-interest? Why do you find it easier to do so?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Heavenly Father, I pray that I follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was humble to the point of death on the cross. He did so for the good of mankind to restore a broken relationship between mankind and you. May we as a church have this kind of humility in order that we think others more highly than ourselves. Help us develop unity in our church so that others may see the bond that we have in Christ and in so doing have a strong witness for the world. May we have this unity to strengthen our fellowship because Satan wants nothing more than disunity in the church. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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