



Season 8 Podcasts

The Humility of the Gospel

By

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So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel
- The Completion of the Gospel
- The Affection of the Gospel
- The Discernment of the Gospel
- The Excellence of the Gospel
- The Sincerity of the Gospel
- The Fruit of the Gospel
- The Advancement of the Gospel
- The Preaching of the Gospel
- Living for the Gospel
- Conduct Worthy of the Gospel
- Suffering for the Gospel
- The Joy of the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'humility' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul continued his letter to the Christians in Philippi by writing:

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Philippians 2:3-4

Paul continued his thoughts about the importance of 'fulfilling' his joy in the Gospel of Christ. He explained clearly how the Philippians could do that. This is really a very simple formula for Christian behavior with other Christians:

- Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit
- in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself
- Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others

The Greek word for 'selfish ambition' is *eritheia* and means 'strife, rivalry, selfishness, carnal ambition, acting for one's own gain regardless of the strife it causes.' The word for 'conceit' is *kenodoxia* and means 'empty glorying, vainglory, self-conceit, empty pride, vain pride.' Paul wrote that Christians should 'let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit. Can you see why that is so important to fulfilling the apostle's 'joy?' Can you see why it would be important to fulfilling the joy of your pastor? More importantly, can you see why it would please our Lord and Savior?

Instead of 'selfish ambition and conceit,' Paul told the Philippian Christians to 'esteem others better than themselves' in 'lowliness of mind.' The Greek word for 'lowliness of mind' is *tapeinophrosune* and means 'humility, humbleness of mind, having a humble opinion of yourself.' Paul wanted Christians to exalt others rather than exalt themselves.

He went so far as to say that Christians should look not only for their own interests, 'but also for the interests of others.' The Greek word for 'look out for' is *skopeó* and means 'consider, keep your eye on, watch, observe, regard.' Paul was not telling Christians to have no regard or consideration for what they did, but he wanted them to also regard and consider what other Christians were doing. He had already told them to exalt others rather than exalt themselves. He next put it into the context of regarding others 'better than themselves.' The Greek word for 'better' is *huperechó* and means 'surpass, more important, surpassing value.'

Can you imagine being part of a church where every member regarded the interests and work of other 'better' than their own? What would it mean for the Gospel of Christ if a community of unbelievers saw Christians expressing that kind of love and concern for each other? It might mean that more people would be open to the message of God's love and grace when they saw His Christians humbling themselves and treating other believers with respect and concern that overflowed to each believer viewing others as having 'surpassing value.' What a concept. What an

opportunity for Christians to demonstrate what it means to 'believe' the Gospel.

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

Mark McGee

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