



"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

Philippians 2:3-4



Get to Know You: How would you rate your competitiveness on a scale of 1-10 if 10 means you HAVE to win?

1. **Read Philippians 1:9-11.** As we circle back to the first part of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, what are the elements he is stressing as important to their spiritual maturation? It is important for us to understand the work of the Holy Spirit who is doing that work in us
2. **Read Galatians 5:22-26.** Spiritual maturity is more than a list of 'do's & don'ts'. However, growing to a place of maturity will require effort on our part by putting *into practice* the things God is teaching us from His Word. What does it mean to 'live by the Spirit'? How will spiritual fruitfulness being produced in our lives help us live better and work towards improving our human relationships?

3. **Read Philippians 2:5-1-5.** Paul challenges his readers to consider the value of their salvation and use it to motivate them towards living out their faith. What are the key points he mentions? Which of these areas poses the greatest challenge for you in your life right now? What is one practical thing you can do this week to help you develop 'the mind of Christ' in this area of challenge?
4. **Read Isaiah 43:1-4.** While the prophet Isaiah was speaking of Israel, we can see some great truths that apply to us as God's people as well. These verses remind the reader of the ransom that was paid for their freedom. Jesus was that ransom for us (his church/body). How can remembering God's love for us help to strengthen our identity, fuel our devotion, and help us to find confidence 'even if we are last' from a worldly perspective?
5. **Read Philippians 2:5-11.** Paul draws our attention to the example of Jesus and what true humility looks like. It is impossible for us to fully grasp the depth of this sacrifice—not just Jesus' death, but his willingness to lower himself to our level. Christ emptied himself—never ceasing to be God but willingly setting aside his self-willed deity and surrendering his right to manifest himself visibly as the God of all splendour and glory. Reflect upon this. Where in your life do you need to set aside privilege and power in order to be obedient and humble?
6. **Read Philippians 2:12-13.** What is the difference between earning and *working* out salvation? How can remembering that it's God's power at work in us protect us against a sense of pride, discouragement, or unhelpful comparison to where others might be on their spiritual development journey?
7. **Read Philippians 2:14-18.** Where do grumbling or arguing most tempt you (home, work, ministry)? How can a living a sacrificial life with reordered priorities of Jesus-Others-You produce lasting JOY 'even if' it means you're 'last'?

