



INTRODUCTION

We live in a period of time that promotes the idea of “Me first”. We’re told that if we don’t blow our own horn, no one else will. During the 60’s there was phrase that is still used today and the phrase is, “It’s a dog eat dog world.” So in order not to be eaten you must eat first! These phrases may seem fairly new compared to the age of the Bible, but the idea behind them are as old as the human race. The first murder committed on earth was over God’s acceptance of Abel’s sacrifice and the rejection of Cain’s sacrifice. A brother killed another brother because he was jealous. There is a lot Cain could have done short of murder, but what would have been the best response? While you’re pondering a response remember that selfishness can come in pairs like Ananias and Sapphira. They thought they could get away with lying to the Holy Spirit by holding back a portion of the proceeds from a real estate deal they publically promised to give all.

Philippians 2:3-8 (NKJV)

- 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.
- ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
- ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
- ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Let’s look at the first two verses of our text and see what God has for us.

- ³ ***Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**

There is no exception to this rule. It is as soon as this scripture is read that some Christians earnestly begin to think of situations where this way of living cannot be applied. Christians question this portion of scripture and others like it due to the environment to which we Christians have grown accustomed before we were saved. This passage of scripture is written not only to oppose the world’s callous way of thinking, but to put the Christian on the “narrow path”. The Holy Spirit isn’t saying that every situation will work out at that moment, in fact, you may suffer financially, socially, or by the hand of a fellow Christian, but **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)** says

- ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. **2 Timothy 3:12-17 (NKJV)** says:
- ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
- ¹⁵ and that from childhood (**this is not an age group but it is the beginning of your walk with Christ**) you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,



for instruction in righteousness,

¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it. The truly humble person knows himself and accepts himself ([Rom. 12:3](#)). He yields himself to Christ to be a servant, to use what he is and has for the glory of God and for the good of others.”

-- Bible Exposition Commentary - Be Joyful (Philippians).

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

⁴ **Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

Verse 4 tells us that it is alright to be successful, but it's also alright to help others be successful as well. In the business community, others may think we are weak, but in reality helping others makes us strong, more confident in whatever field of endeavor we find ourselves.

Is there anyone we can look to who has proven that giving up everything for others so others can gain everything became victorious? Is there anyone we can look to that gave up everything to make sure everyone else had access to obtain all even when the recipients didn't deserve it?

⁵ **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,**

⁶ **who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**

⁷ **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.**

⁸ **And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.**

When we feel we've done all we can for the benefit of others while still maintaining our dignity, when we can still maintain our social status, and when we can still maintain our office of leadership in the church, this is when we have to remind ourselves of what Christ did for us on the cross and realize there has been no one before and there hasn't been anyone since who has done more for man than Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

Let this mind be in us just as it was the mind of Christ to put the Father first, others second and ourselves last.