

Summary of Phil 2:1-4; Operation *Phroneo*: Thinking As Christ Thinks, v. 5; the Key to Fellowship with God & Man Is Knowledge of Doctrine: Operation *Pleroo*

- 3) The apodosis continues in verse 3 by noting that if the protasis is true then mental attitudes of self-aggrandizement and self-promotion are abandoned for true humility and modesty manifest by an attitude that fellow believers are superior in rank to self.
- 4) Verse 4 amplifies these ideas by renouncing over-emphasis on one's own personal interests but rather have a genuine concern for the interests of others.
- 5) In verse 2, the imperative mood of *plēroō*: "bring to completion the same true happiness I enjoy," is followed by examples of how this objective would be manifest in the sophisticated spiritual life of the believer.
- 6) The subjunctive mood of the verb *phroneō*: "in order that you think the same doctrinal principles," places emphasis on the requirement for soul unity within a congregation.

10. The expanded translation of the passage reads like this:

Philippians 2:1 - [Protasis] If there is any encouragement from one's position in Christ, if there is any comforting sense of well-being in the love of God, if there is any fellowship in the filling of the Holy Spirit, if there are any resultant mental attitudes of compassion and sympathy, and there are,

v. 2 - [Apodosis] then bring to completion [*plēroō*: imperative] the same true happiness I enjoy in order that you think the same doctrinal principles [*phroneō*: subjunctive], maintaining the status quo of personal love for God and occupation with Christ, in harmony of soul with other believers, intent on executing the sophisticated spiritual life.

v. 3 - Don't even think any thoughts motivated by expedient self-interests and vacuous, self-glorifying, human-good PR, but with true humility and modesty consider your fellow believers superior in rank to yourselves;

v. 4 - do not only have concern for your own personal interests but also the interests of others.

11. Verse 2 begins with a commandment: the present active imperative of φρονέω, *phroneō* which is the emphasis of the passage: “think the same doctrinal principles.”
12. Paul then points out that this is the same mental attitude that Jesus Christ possessed during His earthly ministry carrying all the way through His sacrifice on the cross:

Philippians 2:5 - Keep on thinking this within yourself which was also resident in Christ Jesus.

13. True fellowship is therefore based on knowledge of Bible doctrine. This knowledge results in a consistent relationship with God based on “thinking the same thoughts.”
14. Once this relationship advances to the point that believers have personal love *for* God then true fellowship can be enjoyed with other believers who are of the same mind.
15. What kicks off Paul’s apodosis is the concept of inner happiness followed by the issue of thinking the same thoughts. Here’s a summary by:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Mental Attitude Dynamics*. 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2000), 13-14:

Fulfill my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (Phil. 2:2 [KJV])

Even though the believer is positionally perfect at the point of salvation, his soul has a deficiency. It is empty. God’s plan of grace calls for this deficiency to be filled through Bible doctrine. This is the meaning of “fulfill” [“bring to completion”] (πληρώω, *plēroō*). As doctrine fully possesses and fully influences the believer, God fills his soul with His own happiness. “Joy” [“true happiness”] (χαρά, *chara*) in the Greek refers to inner happiness. With the addition of the possessive pronoun “my,” it refers to perfect happiness or God’s happiness. This sharing of God’s happiness is potential, depending on whether or not the believer functions under Grace Apparatus for Perception and builds the Edification Complex in his soul.

16. The principle that emerges from the passage in Philippians is that true fellowship is with the Trinity and if fellowship among believers is to be biblical it must take place among those who are “thinking the same things.”

17. The central issue in fellowship is knowing doctrine and it begins with a steadily increasing relationship with God as the believer's life advances toward the concept of *plēroō* – to fill up – being brought to completion.
18. This is illustrated by the double-column advance that presents the idea of one's spiritual growth progressing under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit in two simultaneous movements toward the objective of spiritual maturity.
19. The left column is the inculcation of doctrine which imparts knowledge of the love *of* God. This enables the right column to develop reciprocal love *for* God providing the motivation for consistency in Bible study.
20. This advance ultimately develops personal love for God in the believer's soul with which he can then, with *sprezzatura*, unconditionally love his fellow believer.