# TALKING POINTS

# Uniting Heaven and Earth:
## Christ in Philippians & Colossians
### Q1L4: "Unity Through Humility"

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**MEMORY VERSE:** "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Philippians 2:2, NKJV

## LESSON STUDY INTRO

"This week we'll look at the biblical basis for unity in the church."

Qtly, Sab, last par

### 1. Unity is the by-product of humility (Sun, Mon)

- Apparently, the church in Philippi was suffering from what all churches do at some point – internal strife for position and/or recognition which threatened to divide the church (Phil. 1:27).
    - The apostle continues his admonition to live out the gospel, especially as manifested by the church's unity (Phil. 2:2).
        - He points the blessings of the gospel, as well as their love and appreciation for him, as the incentive to seek unity (v. 1; see also 5LtMs, Lt 11, 1887, par 12).
- In order to achieve unity, Paul emphasizes their need for humility (vs. 3, 4).
    - Without humility, there can be no unity (see Jas. 3:16, 17).

> Our first general meeting in western New York… About thirty-five were present,… but of this number there were hardly two agreed. Some were holding serious errors, and each strenuously urged his own views, declaring that they were according to the Scriptures…. and I was bidden to tell them that they should yield their errors, and unite upon the truths of the third angel's message. Our meeting closed triumphantly. Truth gained the victory. Our brethren renounced their errors and united upon the third angel's message, and God greatly blessed them and added many to their numbers. CET 118, 119

> There is nothing which will weaken the strength of a church like pride and passion…. Be severe upon our own defects of character; be quick to discern our own errors and mistakes; and make less of the faults of others than of our own. 5LtMs, Lt 11, 1887

### 2. Christ is the Model and the Author of humility (Tue-Thu)

- Christ condescending to lay aside His glory and throne, taking upon Himself fallen humanity, and coming to this earth as the bondservant of the beings He created in order to die for their sins (vs. 5-8), is referred to as "the mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16).

- Christ's humility is in direct contrast to Satan's pride.
    - "In taking human nature, Jesus moved from universal supremacy to utter servanthood, the opposite of Lucifer's aim." Qtly, Thu, par 6
        - His sacrifice pre-dates the cross (see Qtly, Thu, bottom of page).

> It was incomprehensible to the selfish soul of Satan that there could exist benevolence and love for the deceived race so great as to induce the Prince of heaven to leave His home and come to a world marred with sin and seared with the curse. He had knowledge of the inestimable value of eternal riches that man had not. He had experienced the pure contentment, the peace, exalted holiness, and unalloyed joys of the heavenly abode.... He could not comprehend the mystery of this great sacrifice for the benefit of fallen man. Con 30, 29

### 3. Humility is a choice (Mon-Wed)

- Paul urges his readers to "let" the mind of Christ be in them. The quarterly asks "how do we do what the texts tell us to do…?" (Wed, par 4).
    - "Have the same mindset" (NIV); "Have this attitude" (NASB); "Have this mind among yourselves" (ESV); "In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus" (NCV).
        - Through the converting power of the Holy Spirit, we've been given the mind of Christ (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:15, 16; 1 Jn. 5:20), but we must *choose* to use it (see Rom. 8:5; Qtly, Tue, par 2).
- Choosing the mind of Christ means *choosing by faith* to *humble ourselves* as Christ did, and to sacrifice ourselves for the good of others (see Jas. 4:10).

> We should not pray for God to humble us; for when God takes hold of us, He will humble us in a way that we would not enjoy. But we must day by day humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. We are to work out our own salvation with fear and with trembling. While it is God that works in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure, we are to co-operate with Him while He works through us. RH, July 12, 1887

## CONCLUSION

> You may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more. 5T 740.1 (Qtly, Fri, par 1)