

Q1- Lesson Four – Monday: *The Source of Unity*

Outline (Notation Form)

I. Opening Problem: Unity Issues in Philippi

1. Context

- Philippi is experiencing **internal factions**.
- Indicated by tensions referenced around **Philippians 4:2–3**.

2. Application

- This is not foreign to the modern church.
 - **Unity is not natural** to humanity.
 - Humans have a **default inclination toward division**—fracturing, competition, conflict.
 - **Holy unity is a supernatural gift** brought by Christ, not produced by human effort.
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II. Paul’s Counsel for Producing Unity (Philippians 2)

1. Lowliness of Mind

- “Esteeming others **greater than ourselves**.”

2. Interest in Others

- “Looking out for the **interests of others**, not just our own.”

3. **Listening / Humility Posture**

- A willingness to hear, yield, and consider.
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III. The Key Verse: Philippians 2:5

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

1. **Word Study – “Mind” (phroneō)**

- Greek: **φρονέω (phroneō)**
- Meaning: mindset, attitude, way of thinking, **mentality**.
- Paul’s point: *Adopt the same mentality Christ had.*

2. **The Promise**

- This command implies **possibility**—we *can* have Christ’s mentality.
 - God does not command what He will not empower.
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IV. The Ultimate Model of Mindset: Philippians 2:6–8

1. Christ displays the **ultimate humility**:

- Though equal with God → did not cling to privilege.
- Emptied Himself.
- Took the form of a servant.
- Obedient unto death.

2. **This is the mentality Paul wants reproduced in us.**
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V. Why the Mind Matters: Where Sin Begins

1. **Jesus' Teaching (Matthew 5:18–19 / broader Matt. 5–7)**

- Evil actions begin with **evil thoughts**:
 - Anger → murder
 - Lust → adultery
- Christ relocates the battleground to the **mind**.

2. **Proverbs Principle**

- “As a man **thinketh in his heart**, so is he.” (Prov. 23:7)
 - Identity and behavior flow from mindset.
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VI. Analogy: Spinal Reflexes vs. Sin

1. **Physiology**

- A spinal reflex travels:
 - Stimulus → Spinal cord → Response
 - Only afterward does it send notification to brain.
- **Reflex does not consult the brain** before acting.

2. **Contrast With Sin**

- Sin is not a reflex.

- Scripture teaches that moral failure begins with **thought**.
 - We cannot truthfully say:
 - “It just happened.”
 - “I didn’t know what I was doing.”
 - Moral responsibility lies in the **mind**, not the spinal cord.
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VII. Application: Why the Mind of Christ Is Essential

1. Because **sin begins in the mind**, **victory begins in the mind**.
 2. Receiving the mind of Christ is part of the **transformative process** (sanctification).
 3. To have unity, we must first share **Christ’s mentality**, not merely adopt rules or procedures.
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VIII. Closing Thought

- Unity is not manufactured—it is **received** through transformation.
- The more we share the **mindset of Christ**, the more unity naturally flows into the church.

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