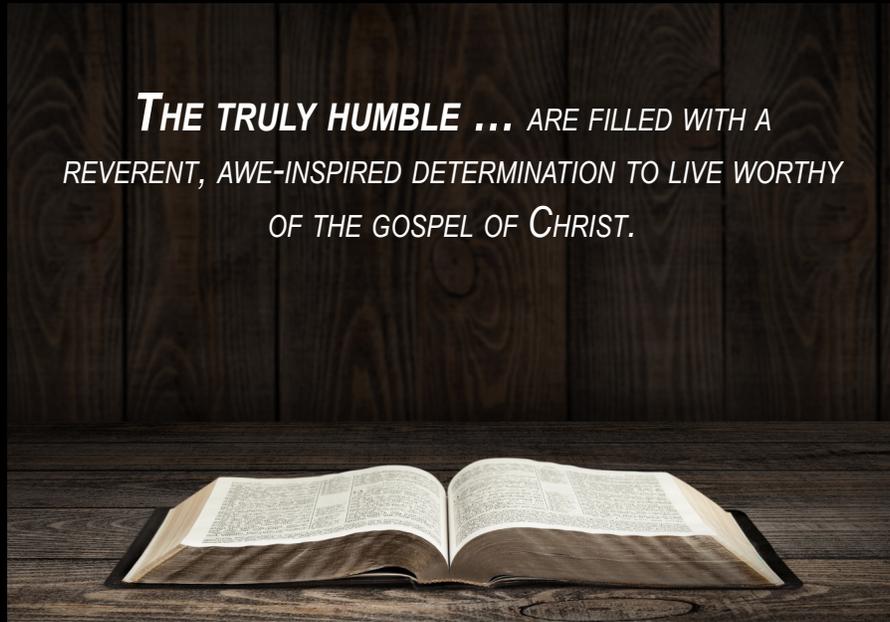


HUMILITY 103: **THE TRULY HUMBLE HONOR CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL**

***THE TRULY HUMBLE ... ARE FILLED WITH A
REVERENT, AWE-INSPIRED DETERMINATION TO LIVE WORTHY
OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.***



Alec Motyer ... The story of the cross of Christ is told in each of the four Gospels; the meaning of the cross is the preoccupying theme of the epistles. But the present passage uniquely unfolds the cross as seen through the eyes of the Crucified, and allows us to enter into the mind of Christ. We tread, therefore, on very holy ground indeed. We do well to remember that this privilege is given to us not to satisfy our curiosity but to reform our lives.

If a friend does something which puzzles us, we might ask what it was that he “had in mind” in doing it. It is in this sense that Paul uses the word mind in verse 5. What was it that seemed important to Jesus? What principles did he cherish? What objectives? On what footing were his choices made? [Motyer, J. A. (1984). *The message of Philipians* (pp. 108–109). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!

(Galatians 1:8 NIV)

1. The truly humble honor the gospel of Christ by trusting in the gospel of Christ, 1:27a.

- (Philippians 1:27a ESV) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.
- A. To live worthy of the gospel of Christ we must first have been saved by the gospel of Christ.**
- (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
- B. To hold to any other gospel is an abomination—a detestable thing—before the Lord.**

There are many “unsaved Christians” who fashion their gospel apart from Scripture and who are devoid of any ability to understand spiritual things.

- (1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV) The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

These same religious impostors choose cleverness and persuasion over the plain truth of the cross.

- (1 Corinthians 2:4–5 NLT) And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. 5 I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.
- (1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us

who are being saved it is the power of God.

So let’s ask ourselves this question ... Can there be anything more dishonoring ... any greater offense ... more detestable in the sight of God and to Christ and his gospel than rebellious humans choosing their own way and reducing the word of the cross in an attempt to make it acceptable and plausible to the very ones who reject it as foolishness?

Alec Motyer ... Before anyone can preach and invite others to believe, he must know what to preach. **There is no agreement unless there is agreement as to what constitutes the gospel.** [Motyer, J. A. (1984). *The message of Philippians* (pp. 96–97). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

So please ask yourself ... Could there be anything more dishonoring to Christ than happens in the process of multi-faith dialogues and in religious/political coalitions where the gospel is set aside so the participants can come together on the things they have in common?

When will we learn ... if we are not agreed on the gospel, then we have absolutely nothing in common.



SO THE TRULY HUMBLE FIGHT FOR CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL ...

2. The truly humble fight for the gospel of Christ, 1:27-30.

A. Paul was totally committed to the gospel of Christ.

It goes without saying that Paul was totally committed to the gospel of Christ.

In **1:5** he refers to their “partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” In **1:7** ... he speaks of “the defense and confirmation of the gospel.” **1:12** ... “to advance the gospel.” **1:16** ... “I am put here for the defense of the gospel.” **4:3** ... he speaks of the women “who have labored side by side with me in the gospel.” And in **4:15** ... he again addresses his partnership with them in the gospel.

B. The truly humble fight for the gospel by standing firm in the Spirit.

- (Philippians 1:27a ESV) Only let your

manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit.

- i. Standing firm in the Spirit acknowledges the significant place of the Spirit in our lives and in our service to the Lord.
- ii. The saved—the truly humble—are born of the Spirit (John 3:6, Galatians 4:29).
- iii. The saved—the truly humble—are led by and live by the Spirit.
 - (Romans 8:14 ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - (Galatians 5:25 ESV) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- iv. And as if that were not convincing enough, the Spirit—in answer to our Lord’s prayer—has been given to help us until the return of our Lord Jesus.
 - (John 14:16–18 ESV) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

So no one should ever be surprised when Paul instructs us to stand firm in the One who is our divinely assigned Teacher and Defender and Keeper in the faith.

- v. Standing firm in the Spirit sets our direction and tone for the spiritual conflict before us.
 - (Zechariah 4:6 NLT) Then he said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.”
 - (2 Corinthians 10:3 NLT) We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do.

- (Ephesians 6:12 NLT) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

C. The truly humble are blessed with keen, God-given insight into the conflict.

*****SO WE FIGHT ...**



- i. **WE FIGHT ...** side by side for the truth of the gospel.
 - (Philippians 1:27b ESV) ... I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
 - (Galatians 2:5 ESV) To them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.
- ii. **WE FIGHT ...** refusing to be intimidated by the dark forces.
 - (Philippians 1:28 ESV) And not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.
- iii. **WE FIGHT ...** understanding that their fierce opposition is not a sign of their victory but of our victory and of their destruction.
- iv. **WE FIGHT ...** blessed with ever-increasing knowledge in the ways and mind of God as we grow in our understanding of the blessing given to us in believing in Christ and in suffering for him.
 - (Philippians 1:29–30 ESV) For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Alec Motyer ... The world rises up in a display of opposition designed to put the church to total

rout, but the church responds with a rock-like immobility. [Motyer, J. A. *Ibid* (p. 97).]

Two texts to build perspective building and to underscore our complete dependence on the Lord concerning the scope of the battle ...

- (Psalm 2:1–6 NLT) Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? 2 The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. 3 “Let us break their chains,” they cry, “and free ourselves from slavery to God.” 4 **But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. 6 For the Lord declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain.”**
- (Acts 4:24–29 NIV) When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ 27 **Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.** 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

3. The truly humble depend on Christ, 2:1-2.

- (Philippians 2:1–2 ESV) So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

4. The truly humble turn to Christ and away from themselves, 2:3-4.

- (Philippians 2:3–4 NASB95) Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

5. The truly humble do not grasp for or cling to position, 2:5-7.

- (Philippians 2:5–7 ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

6. The truly humble obey as Christ obeyed, 2:8.

- (Philippians 2:8 ESV) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

7. The truly humble work hard to abound in the saving work of God in their lives.

- (Philippians 2:12–13 ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- (1 Corinthians 15:10 ESV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.