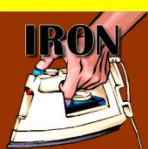


IRONY AND IRON

Philippians 2 – Irony and Iron			
	IRONY Low High	IRON 	
Themes	Individual Joy Through Other Focus	Learn Exultation by Practicing Humility	Iron out Your Salvation
Key Constructs	IF in Christ ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete my joy by your unity. Learn joy by emulating humility & suffering. 	Follow Christ's Pattern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek not equality Be obedient, even to death Christ was humbled, then exalted Humble yourself and God will exalt you 	Obey—with or without supervision. Continue to iron out the wrinkles in your salvation. How? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No arguing/complaining. Shine like stars so I can brag on you. Rejoice with me—our sacrifice and service will shine on the day of Christ.
Media/Tone	Exhortation: One on One	Exhortation: One to Many	
Verses	Verses 1-4	Verses 5-11	Verses 12-18
Pivot = Therefore, continue to obey and work (verse 12).			

D. Thomas

Philippians 2:1-4. *Complete the Joy*. If you are encouraged by being immersed in the Christ, if you find solace in His unconditional love, if you have a friendship with Holy Spirit, if you have any tenderness or compassion... Here's what it takes to make my joy complete:

1. Be like-minded
2. Have the same love
3. Have one love in spirit
4. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or self-centered conceit
5. Consider others better than your self.
6. Look not just to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

If you have any encouragement from being united with [εἰς] Christ, if any comfort from his love [ἀγάπης], if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Q When do you know you've been less than "united with the Christ?"
1. Find avenues to disagree.
 2. Love things other than who and what the Christ loves.
 3. Do to complete your ambition; do to show how dominant you are.
 4. Remember: you're in a hurry, and important; they're not.
 5. First things first; your people, your family, your nation, your culture, etc.
- Q How do we "consider others better than ourselves?"

Philippians 2:5-16. Humility or Humiliation?

Here's the answer... Your way of doing things should be identical to Christ Jesus. To wit:

1. Even though having the very nature of Father God, did not seek equality with the Father.
2. He made Himself nothing by emptying Himself [ἐκένωσεν],⁸ taking the form of a slave [δούλου], in human likeness.
3. As a human, He humbled Himself, obediently even unto death, on a cross.

So, Father God exalted Him to the highest place of honor, with the authority that is above all other authority. Facing this authority, **every one** will acknowledge [whether believer or not] that Jesus the Christ is Sovereign, to the glory of Father God Himself.

Ergo, friends—just as you've obeyed always in my presence, please do so in my absence. Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling—for it is God Himself who works in you to intend and act according to His good purpose.

Kvetch not; squabble not. Otherwise, you will not become blameless and pure, actual children of the Lord God without blemish, especially in a depraved culture. You can shine like stars in the universe—just hold out the Word of Life to others. I look forward to boasting about you when the Christ returns; I want no doubts about whether I labored in vain.

- Q Was the Christ equal to God the Father? Holy Spirit?
- Q Why didn't the Christ seek equality with Father God?
- Q To what extent was the Christ's deity diminished by His humble life, biological death, especially on a cross? If He were truly Deity would He not die?
- Q Can we really work out "our own salvation?" Why fear & tremble when doing so?
- Q Just what is this "good purpose" of the Lord God which works within us?
- Q How is humility connected to fulfilling the Lord God's purpose?
- Q If you were on a cross and had the ability to get down, would you? Why didn't the Christ? Was He not deity?

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-16

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature [or *in the form of*] God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing [ἐκένωσεν], taking the very nature [*the form*] of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out [or *hold on to*] the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

⁸See more on the resolution of this issue, *Kenosis: Did the Christ Empty Himself of His Deity?* on our website at https://DiggingDeeper.Life/content/The_Kenosis_Problem.pdf

Philippians 2:17-30. *Sacrifices*. Yes, even if I disappear like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service derived from your faith, I rejoice, I am glad with all of you. And, for the record, you should be glad with me.

Here's why: I expect the Lord Yeshua will send Timothy to help, and that I will also be cheered up with news about you. I have no one like Timothy—he takes a genuine interest in your welfare. Everyone else looks out for themselves, not those of Jesus the Christ. BUT, know that Timothy has proved himself—just as a son serves his father, Timothy has served me in the gospel's work. I expect, therefore, to send him soon. I am confident in the Lord that I will be coming to you soon also.

It is also necessary to send Epaphroditus back to you; he took care of me, but now he wants to be with you, and is distressed that you heard he was sick. Sure he was indeed sick, and almost died, but the Lord God showed His mercy—on him and me. God spared me great sorrow. So, I am even more eager to send him home to you and then you will have less anxiety. Welcome him home in the Lord joyfully; honor people like him. He almost died for the work of the Christ, risking his very life to make up for the help you did not give me.

- Q What attributes of Timothy as a worker in the faith do you see in this passage? Would he be a good friend? Why? A good worker? Why?
- Q What do you learn about Paul/Saul the person here in his comments to the church, about Timothy, and about Epaphroditus?
- Q How was Epaphroditus to be treated when he returned to Philippi? What help do you suppose the church there could not give Paul/Saul?

PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.

²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.