



We Swim for Jesus!

**“Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others.
Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.”**

Philippians 2:3

Bible Verse for Week #33

Life Application notes

1. Many people, even Christians, seem to live only to make a good impression on others or to please themselves. That is self-centered living. Paul asks the Philippians to love one another, considering others better than themselves. When we esteem others and care for their problems as if they were our own, we demonstrate Christ’s example of putting others first. Don’t be concerned about making a good impression or pleasing yourself to the point where you strain your relationship with others in God’s family. Let the Spirit of God work through you to attract others to Him.
2. Immediately after Paul calls for unity among the believers (2:2), he urges the Philippians to avoid selfishness. The cure for selfishness is servant hood, which is being like Christ (2:50). Selfish ambitions destroy church unity by pitting one Christian against another. What can you do in your church to promote unity?
3. People often compare themselves to others to excuse their behavior or to bolster their pride. They many think, for example; “what I did wasn’t so bad, after all, look at what she did”. They may look at people who are worse off and think that they’re pretty good in comparison. Or they may think the worst of people and quickly judge them. Those kinds of comparisons can only lead to pride and self-centeredness. Paul says that instead we should assume that others are better than we are, giving them the benefit of the doubt. In so doing we will build others up and develop humility.
4. Being humble means having a true perspective on ourselves (see Rom. 12:3). It does not mean that we should put ourselves down. We realize that we are sinners, saved only by God’s grace; but we are saved and therefore have great worth in God’s kingdom. We should place ourselves in God’s hands to be used as He wants in order to spread His Word and share His love with others.

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“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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5. Why do you serve in the church? Is it to make a good impression on others, to feel good about yourself, or to appear spiritual? Paul tells the Philippians, and us, to do nothing with a selfish motivation. Instead, we should serve others because we want to follow Christ's example and because we love them. Ask God to give you the right motives for Christian service.
6. If the exhortations in this verse were consistently practiced by Christians, think of the impact we would make in the world! People would be drawn to Christ because His followers were unselfish, humble, and always thinking of others, not looking out for their own selfish interest (the opposite of the way the world operates). Is there someone you are trying to influence for Christ? Live like this and trust God to work through your example to draw that person to Him.

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