



The Partnership Mindset

Phil 4:2-3 | Ryan Pfeiffer | November 3, 2024

MINDSET: A habitual mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations.

A Jesus Mindset is a habitual mental attitude that sees ourselves, each other and the world through the eyes of Jesus. Jesus' values, teachings, mission.

Flesh Mindset... the way we see ourselves, others and the world apart Jesus.

Paul has been working hard to cultivate in us a devotion to Jesus but also to one another... in friendship & partnership... Partnership is friendship with purpose.... Purpose bigger than ourselves...

Phil 1:5 I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel...

Paul gently challenges Euodia + Synteche to reconcile their conflict. Then he commends and honors their faithful service before the Church.

FOCUS— Life-giving partnership requires two ingredients:

- Reconciliation that restores unity
- Honoring one another above ourselves

RECONCILIATION THAT RESTORES UNITY.

“When we avoid difficult conversations, we trade short term discomfort for long term dysfunction.”— Difficult Conversations, Douglas Stone.

Notice how Paul doesn't name the problem... he names them! Often the problem isn't THE problem its how we are engaging it.

James 1:19 let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...

Notice the progression... more listening—> wiser speaking—> less anger...

vs 2. He calls them to be of the same mind in the Lord. He's calling them to ... the mindset of Christ. 2:114)

When we are out of the mindset of Christ we are vulnerable to Flesh Mindset.



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| Envy and rivalry (1:15) | Grumbling and arguing (2:14) |
| Selfish Ambition (1:15, 2:3) | Confidence in the flesh (self) (3:4) |
| Vain conceit (2:3) | Destruction and disunity (3:19) |

How do we break out of the flesh mindset? Paul says same mind IN the Lord.

Bonhoeffer in Life Together gives us a profound image and principle.

1. Jesus Christ stands between the lover and the others he loves. P36
 2. I must meet him only as the person that he already is in Christ's eyes... human love constructs its own image of the other person. P36
- Contrary to our own opinions and convictions Jesus tells us what love is.
 - I see them through the love Jesus has for them.
 - I relinquish every attempt to coerce, control, dominate.

HONORING ONE ANOTHER ABOVE OURSELVES.

Paul doesn't shame them... he pleads with them... then he honors them...V3 Highlights they contended w/him... among his co-workers... in book of life.

Honoring one another is a key way we strengthen the love, trust, bond.

Honor is such a big thing in the Bible.

- Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (ESV) Outdo one another in showing honor.

Honoring = naming & affirming the character & contribution others bring...Paul goes out of his way to honor Timothy and Epaphroditus (Ch3)

He also goes out of his way to affirm the partnership women have w/ him...

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.



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He commends Phoebe... *synistēmi*... recommend, approve, stand with.

- He honors her as a deacon of the church in Cenchreae... as a leader.
- Asks that they receive her with honor and respect due to her role.
- He identifies her as a benefactor... significant financial support... Paul!

He goes on to 9 more women:

- Vs3 Prisca who is co-worker, risked their lives, helps lead a church w/ husband
- Vs 7 Junia who “is outstanding among the apostles”
- John Chrysostom (4th AD) Indeed, how great was the wisdom of this woman that she was thought worthy of being called an apostle!

Paul was strengthening partnership between men/ women in fledgling church.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The early church required men/ women, Jew/ Gentile, slave/ master to partner together in ways that were radical for the time.

- Gal 2:11 Paul corrects Peter Gentiles.
- Phil 17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. (No longer as a slave, but as a dear brother)