

Building Bridges

Phil. 2:1-4

“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”

Phil. 2:1 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Within our theme of *Building Bridges*, we began a new series about doing so *Via Respect*.

Respect – esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability:
<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/respect?s=t>

“Building Bridges Via Respect Within the Family”

I. RESPECT WITHIN THE FAMILY

A. The Origin of the Family

- God created the family before He created any other institution.
- As our heavenly Father, God reiterates the value of familial relationship.
- Our relationship, as children of God with our Father, is throughout the New Testament.

B. The Obstacles for the Family

- When problems arose, due to bad attitudes and action, God the Father intervened.
- A child with a rebellious heart, like Cain, will disobey and disrespect his Father.
- A rebellious child must suffer the consequences of rebellious actions.
- Parents, following our Father's example, must discipline our children.

C. The Opportunities for Families

- Obstacles are opportunities to learn the value and ramifications of decisions.
- When parents are respecting each other, children have opportunity to learn to respect God's plan for a home.
- In honoring parents, children have the opportunity to learn to respect authority.
- In honoring their children, parents have opportunity for teaching them to respect themselves.
- In honoring their siblings, children have the opportunity to learn to respect others.

This morning we will look at...

“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”

II. RESPECT AMONG THE FAITHFUL

A. The Expectation for a Christian

Phil. 2:1 *If there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

- Prove what you are supposed to have.

ei: forasmuch as, if, that

Original Word: εἰ

Transliteration: ei

Short Definition: if

ei (a conditional conjunction) – *ei* (followed by any verb) expresses "a condition, *thought of as real*, or to denote *assumptions*" (i.e. *viewed as factual. for the sake of argument*) (BAGD). Accordingly, (*ei*) should *not* be translated "*since*," but rather always "*if*" – since the assumption may only be *portrayed* as valid (true, factual).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1487.htm>

Heb. 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

- Be an encouragement with spiritual guidance – “...any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love...”

Consolation = to alleviate or lessen the grief, sorrow, or disappointment of; give solace or comfort: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/console>

paraklésis: a calling to one's aid, i.e. encouragement, comfort

Original Word: παράκλησις

Transliteration: paraklésis

Definition: a calling for, summons, hence: (a) exhortation, (b) entreaty, (c) encouragement, joy, gladness, (d) **consolation, comfort.**

(*paráklēsis*) is an "intimate call" that someone personally gives to deliver *God's verdict*, i.e. "the close-call" that reveals how the Lord weighs in the relevant facts (evidence). *paráklēsis* ("holy urging") is **used of the Lord directly motivating and inspiring believers to carry out His plan**, delivering His particular message to someone else. The core-meaning of *paráklēsis* ("personal urging") is shaped by the individual context, so it can refer to: exhortation, warning, **encouragement (comfort)**, etc.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3874.htm>

- Be an encouragement with kind words.

paramuthion: exhortation, encouragement

Original Word: παραμύθιον

Transliteration: paramuthion

Definition: comfort, consolation, an exhortation, persuasion, encouragement.

paramýthion (a neuter noun) – consolation (comfort) produced by using *soothing* words (actions). <http://biblehub.com/greek/3890.htm>

- Be an encouragement with genuine sympathy/empathy.

splagchnon: the inward parts (heart, liver, lungs, etc.), fig. the emotions

Original Word: σπλάγχνα

Transliteration: splagchnon

Definition: the inward parts; the heart, affections, seat of the feelings.

4698 *splágxnon* – properly, the internal organs ("viscera"); (figuratively) "*gut-level compassion*" (*visceral* feelings); the capacity to feel deep emotions (sympathy, empathy, etc.).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4698.htm>

“...the differences between the most commonly used meanings of these two terms: *sympathy* is feeling compassion, sorrow, or pity for the hardships that another person encounters, while *empathy* is putting yourself in the shoes of another.” <http://blog.dictionary.com/empathy-vs-sympathy/>

B. The Expression of a Christian, v. 2 – “Fulfil ye my joy...”

pléroó: to make full, to complete

Original Word: πληρόω

Transliteration: pléroó

Definition: I fill, fulfill, complete.

Properly, *fill to individual capacity*, i.e. to the extent it is "meet" (appropriate.) The root (*plē-*) expresses *totality*, and implies full *quantity* ("up to the max").

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4137.htm>

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4130.htm>

Mutual respect among believers is the essence of unity.

- Unity in purpose -- “... be likeminded...”
- Unity in passion – “...having the same love...”
- Unity in practice – “...*being* of one accord, of one mind.”

Original Word: σύμψυχος

Transliteration: sumpsuchos

Short Definition: of one accord

Properly, ***closely united in soul, i.e. people sharing the same identity because they are "in Christ"*** – <http://biblehub.com/greek/4861.htm>

C. The Estimation of a Christian, vs. 3-4

Phil. 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

eritheia: **rivalry, hence ambition, strife**

Original Word: ἐριθεία

Transliteration: eritheia

Definition: (the seeking of followers and adherents by means of gifts, the seeking of followers, hence) ambition, rivalry, self-seeking; a feud, strife

Properly, work done *merely for hire* (as a mercenary), referring therefore to *carnal ambition (selfish rivalry)*.

Ancient Greek uses *eritheía* ("mercenary self-seeking") of **acting for one's own gain, regardless of the discord (strife) it causes**. *eritheía* ("selfish ambition") places self-interest ahead of what *the Lord* declares right, or what is good for others.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2052.htm>

- In the foremost mind of a believers' evaluation of another, should be concern for the other, not self.

hégeomai: to lead, suppose

Original Word: ἡγέομαι

Transliteration: hégeomai

Definition: (a) I lead, (b) I think, am of opinion, suppose, consider, esteem.

Properly, to lead the way (going before as a *chief*.)

hēgéomai ("what goes before, in front") refers to *coming first in priority* such as: **"the leading thought" in one's mind, i.e. to esteem (regard highly)**; or a leading authority, providing leadership in a local church (see Heb 13:7,17,24).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2233.htm>

Phil. 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

- Respect others' needs, overshadowing the needs of self.

skopeó: to look at, contemplate

Original Word: σκοπέω

Transliteration: skopeó

Definition: I look at, regard attentively, take heed, beware, consider.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4648.htm>

Conclusion

For a believer, respect should originate in the home, and then continue forward at church.

1 Pet. 4:17 “For the time *is come* that **judgment must begin at the house of God...**”

1 Cor. 12:14 For the body is **not one member, but many**. ...

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ...

24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but **God hath tempered the body together**, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:

25 **That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.**

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

1 Pet. 2:17 **Honour all *men***. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.