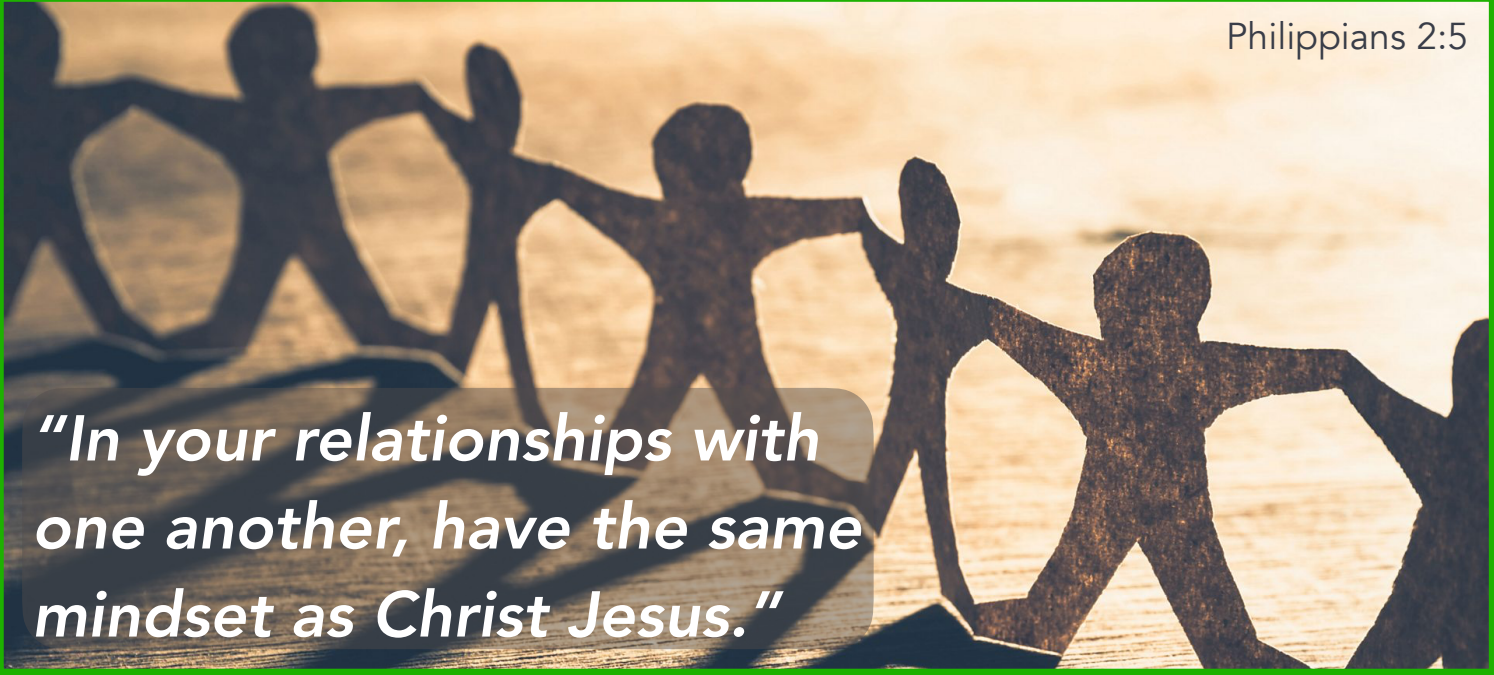


Outlook

Philippians 2:5



"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

The Bible describes the Church in many ways: An army; a bride; a wild olive branch; a body; a flock; a temple; a royal priesthood; a field; and then there's this one: **the family of God**.

Any healthy family will need to find a way of 'doing life' together. Meal times, budgeting, holiday choices, and anything else has to be worked out. But at the heart of a good family isn't really a list of things we do together as much as it is a deep love of one another and a desire to see each other flourish. Likewise, a church family will need to find a way to meet together, to budget, etc. but at the deepest level a healthy church ought to reflect what Paul writes about in today's Bible reading when he says, *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."* (Phil 2:5) Godly love will be at the heart of a healthy Church.

Why we might struggle to do this and how we might see it put into action is the topic of our passage from the letter to the Philippians today.

The Collect for Harvest

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Philippians 2:1-8

1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
6 who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

John 3:1-18

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.' 3 Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' 4 'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!' 5 Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom

of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' 9 'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked. 10 'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, 'and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our

testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

From the PCC



A few weeks ago we mentioned that the PCC have recently agreed to do some work with Kilo Architects (kilo.co.uk) to investigate what might be possible in the future with our 2 church buildings. If you're interested in being a part of a working party who will liaise with the architects (and diocese and others) and the PCC to help the process along, speak to Ian.

Next Week



Don't forget: Bishop Philip will be visiting us next Sunday. He'll be baptising at both services. If you've not been baptised and would like to be, it's not too late to take the plunge! Speak to Ian for more information.

Thank You!



A huge 'thanks' to everyone who made last Sunday's joint service a great success. The flowers looked great, the food & drink was wonderful, the choir sounded terrific, the fellowship was terrific, and we were really blessed. Thank you!

Keep in Touch



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Philippians 2:1-8

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."*

Jesus Christ in John 13:35

1. God's Vision for His Church
2. Old Lives & New Lives: Adam & Christ
3. Dry Philippi Never Stood a Chance



Summary of our last talk:

>>> *Whatever happens...*

1) *Stand firm as one;* 2) *Strive together;* 3) *Be ready for opposition.*