

The Pursuit of Happiness
The Humble Path to Happiness
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I. Introduction

- A. Philippians 2:1-11 (NCV)

II. Harmony Creates Happiness.

- A. *“You will make my joy complete by having the same mind, sharing the same love, being united in spirit, and intent on one purpose.”* (Philippians 2:2 (NAS))
- B. What Paul is saying is:
1. *“I want you to have the same mind.”* That’s mental harmony.
 2. *“I want you to share the same love.”* That’s emotional harmony.
 3. *“I want you to be united in spirit.”* That’s spiritual harmony.
 4. *“I want you to be intent on one purpose.”* That’s directional harmony.

III. Four Habits of Happiness to Help Reduce Conflict in Your Life.

- A. Never let my pride be my guide.
- B. Pride is the root of every sin.
1. *“Don’t do anything from selfish ambition or from vain conceit.”* (Philippians 2:3a (MOUNCE))
- C. Selfish ambition is saying, it’s all about me.
- D. Vain conceit means, I’m always right.
1. *“For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.”* (James 3:16 (NLT))
 2. ¹⁹*“But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: ... ²⁰hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group.”* (Galatians 5:19-20 (TLB))
- E. Be humble or stumble.
1. *“Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourself.”* (Philippians 2:3b (NCV))
 2. Humility is not thinking less of yourself. Humility is thinking of yourself less.
 3. *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6 (NLT))
- F. Learn the lost art of paying attention!
1. *“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”* (Philippians 2:4 (NLT))
 2. The greatest gift you can give somebody is your attention.
- G. Ask what would Jesus do?
1. *“In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 2:5 (NCV))

IV. What Does It Mean to Act Like Jesus?

- A. It means I don’t demand what I think I deserve.

- I. ⁶“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges.” (Philippians 2:6-7 (NLT))
- B. It means I look for ways that I can serve.
 - I. “Rather, he made himself nothing, by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:7 (NIV))
- C. I do what’s right even when it’s painful.
 - I. “And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8 (NCV))

V. Conclusion

- A. ⁹“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT))