

Phil 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

There are a number of questions that come up in regard to this passage.

For instance – in the denominations there are trumpet solos – wrong for two reasons.

One is the instrument and the other is the glorification of the one playing the instrument.

“Oh what a great gift he/she has been given” or
“wasn’t that performance wonderful.”

Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

In the denominations and some “churches of Christ”, there are solos, duets, quartets, choirs.

“Oh what a great gift he/she/they has been given”
or “wasn’t that performance wonderful.”

“Wasn’t that service moving?”

Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man,
or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were
still trying to please man, I would not be a servant
of Christ.

The brethren in Corinth had the same type of problems as they received miraculous gifts of the spirit.

1Co 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Why were the gifts given? Not for self glorification, but for all to be built up that God might be made known to all men.

1Co 14:2-3 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. (3) On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

These brethren had a problem. If you spoke in a tongue, everyone knew God had given you something special.

1Co 14:17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

One of the problems with Pentecostals is their desire to have a miraculous gift, chief among those, as at Corinth, is speaking in another language.

1Co 14:23-25 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? (24) But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, (25) the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

In class recently, we were told of an “instrumental church of Christ” which had numerous splits over the years because “Susie or John” didn’t get to play the (you name the instrument).

More recently, we are told of sisters who demand that the men allow them to stand and clap as they sing in services.

Is this different in anything except degree and the glorification given to men in the Catholic church?



1Ki 18:26 ... Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. ...And they danced around the altar they had made.

1Ki 18:27 And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." (28) And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.

1Co 14:19-20 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. (20) Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

Look at v. 20— children want all the attention — adults should understand it's not all about them!

I once heard two brothers in Christ in a heated discussion in which one said, “You need to be more humble like I am.” The reply was, “I am certainly just as humble as you are.” To which the first replied, “You certainly are not more humble than I.”

Who among us is the greatest servant of God?

Joh 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Mat 20:26-28 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (27) and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, (28) even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I use this passage a lot to show the radio callers that the preacher ought not to have a "minister's parking place" set off for him – unless he is handicapped.



Titian, Pope Paul III and His Grandsons, 1545–46, and their maneuvering to be his heir.

I get a real kick out of talking about the glorified trappings of the Catholic Church which directly contradict the teachings of Christ.

But then I realize there are those in churches of Christ who “want the glory.” As it was in Corinth, so it is today.

In Baltimore, we have a preacher who said that when the church appointed elders, he would be the “chief shepherd”.

Is that something like the “senior pastor”, the “pulpit minister” (as opposed to the “junior” ministers – “Associate”, “Assistant” or “Youth”?)

God spent 3 chapters of the NT straightening out this problem of “who was the best?” when it came to spiritual gifts.

1Co 14:5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

1Co 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

1Co 14:16 Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? (17) For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

In thinking of self, a question often comes up that I believe was incorrectly answered in our Biblical Insights – by two preachers.

Sunday night services? Why do we have them?

1Co 11.20 Now when you come together at the same place, you are not really eating the Lord's Supper.

The reason the church assembles is to eat the Lord's
Supper!

Have you found another reason that the church is to
come together?

That was the reason in Act 20:7 On the first day of
the week, when we were gathered together to
break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to
depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech
until midnight.

There are other things that we do on the first day of the week, but the reason the church (the *ekklesia* the assembly) was to assemble (come together) was for the Lord's Supper.

What if some would be late in coming? 1Co 11:33
So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— (34) if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Why and when did brethren start having two services on Sunday?

During WWII, around the clock, 7 day a week production was in force for the war effort. The shifts were 8 hours. Many men and women couldn't get to services due to their work schedules – especially among the military. What did brethren do? Some came early and had to leave to go to work. Others came later after they got off work. Why did some brethren come together both times?

In their kindness, they waited for one another!

Of course, there were additional blessings as those who waited heard two sermons and close to twice the number of songs and prayers they had previously heard.

The question that arises today is whether the situation still exists. Perhaps not to the same extent in the workforce in most places but in most metropolitan areas, it's still true and the side benefits certainly exist!

And so the question for each
Christian is why have we come
together?

To glorify self or to please God?

To please ourselves or to build up
others?

Rom 14:19-22 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (20) Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. (21) It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (22) The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

Rom 14.19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. (NET online)

Heb 10:24-26 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (26) For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Brethren, if we do not learn that we are not the center of attraction in church and our needs are not the only things that are met when we come together, we will not make it to heaven.

Php 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

As you consider what Jesus has done for you, what have you learned about serving others?

If you have not yet determined that you will live for Him who died for you, will you not consider His commands?

Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.