

Philippians 2:1-4

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Consider Others

Philippians 2.3

Jack paused from his work to think about the new job coming up. “Even though it’s not my strong area, it’ll look good on my resumé.” Jack knew that the best person for this job was Margaret, and he probably should have put in a good word for her, but he resisted.

Later that morning, Mr. Watkins came by Jack’s office.

“Jack, as you know, we’ve got to fill this new position. Since you have seniority, you have first crack at it.”

“I’ll take it,” replied Jack without hesitation.

“Are you sure, Jack?” asked Mr. Watkins, a little surprised. “Okay, Jack, if you’re sure, you’ve got the job. It’s yours.”

“Oh, by the way, Jack,” he added as he was leaving, “our president will be looking for some sharp analysts to manage a special high-profile project that would have been right up your alley. Since you’re now tied up, do you think Margaret can handle it?”

Jack was speechless.

Reflection

This is a tough spot for Jack. Would you have taken the job? He didn’t know a better job would be coming his way so soon. The problem is that Jack was thinking more about his selfish desire to move up the corporate ladder than who was the best fit for the job, or what was best for the company. Jesus Christ wants to impart to us the “I will trust the Lord; therefore I will wait on him” aspect of humility. Jack missed an opportunity to employ the “consider others more important than yourselves” concept. He knew that Margaret was better suited for this new position, yet he convinced himself that he was more deserving.

Accountability and Reflection

Confess to the Lord where you have been guilty of selfish ambition. Then be alert for the Lord to provide opportunities to consider others above yourself.

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation like this?
- Is it selfish to want to move up the ladder?
- Is there any way to move up the ladder and still exhibit humility?

Prayer: *Lord, forgive me where I’ve let my ambition get in the way of your perfect will for my life. May your Holy Spirit prompt me when I yield to the temptation of selfish ambition, and may I heed the Spirit’s voice.*