

I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST

Philippians 2:1-30

In the opening message, we learned about Apostle Paul's earnest hope and desire to honor Christ Jesus no matter what. Through today's message I pray that we may learn Jesus' heart and work with a unified heart and mind in Jesus Christ. Amen.

The brothers and sisters in the Philippian church were already encouraging, loving, comforting, and socializing with each other in the Holy Spirit. They showed mercy to the poor. But they also lacked one thing. They lacked love for each other and weren't united. In order to win in a soccer game, each player's skills are important, but team play is more important. When there is no unity in the church even though God's work may seem to develop on the outside, Satan can divide it at any time.

So the Apostle Paul exhorts the Philippians with the heart of Jesus. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." The reason why we cannot serve the ministry with one heart is because of quarrels, selfish desires, vanity, self-seeking glory. This is not just a matter between fellow missionaries, but also for local shepherds and, more narrowly, marital relationship. In order to be one in mind and will, we need to put down the desire of being recognized and humbly lift the other person; we need to not only look after our own, but consider other people's needs as well. However, humans are naturally arrogant and selfish. So even though we know our fault, it is not easy to accept it. Only when we embrace Jesus' heart, can we practice Paul's exhortation.

So the Apostle Paul says in verse 5. "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." When we do not embrace the heart of Christ, we can never have one heart and serve the ministry in unity. We cannot achieve unity by controlling only outward actions or asserting authority. Although it seems that the ministry is doing well, in many cases they are planning their revenge. We need to change our minds. We have to change our mind in order to change our behavior. We have to empty our heart and embrace Jesus' heart. Here, 'to embrace' means 'to pursue earnestly' and 'to strive'. Having the heart of Christ Jesus does not happen by itself. When we remember Jesus' love and grace and try to learn from him, we get to embrace His heart even a little bit.

Then what is Jesus' heart that we must seek earnestly? First, Jesus emptied himself. Jesus is God, the Creator of the whole universe. He has right to be worshiped, praised, and served by all creatures. Jesus gave it up and became low, even though

he could claim and enjoy his rights as the Creator and Master of all things. Second, Jesus wore a human body in the form of a servant, and served dirty sinners. He did what he didn't have to do and lowered himself because he loved sinners. He lowered himself to save lives at the cost of his life. Third, he obeyed the will of the Heavenly Father until he died on the cross. Jesus who took the human body, wanted to avoid the pain of the cross if possible. However, Jesus earnestly cried and obeyed God's will, not his own. In order to obey to God's will, Jesus also bore the struggle of prayer until sweat became blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. He wailed in order to deny himself and obey God's will. Embracing Jesus' heart is an impossible thing that we cannot do with our own power. So we have to pray and beg.

Jesus knows all the sorrows and pains we suffer. Even though people don't know, Jesus knows and acknowledges all the tears we shed and the hardships we have suffered. If we want to become one in heart and will and become like Jesus, we start by struggling in prayer and wailing; only then can we embrace our fellow coworkers and sheep with Jesus' heart. I pray that we may bear the struggle of prayer until we remember Jesus' sacrifice and service for us, the grace of patience and salvation, and learn the humility and obedience of the Lord.

When Jesus denied him and obeyed God until he died on the cross, God exalted him above all names and made everyone under heaven and earth kneel in that name. He made all tongues acknowledge Jesus and give glory to God. God will be glorified through our lives when we learn Jesus' heart and obey him to death. When we enter Heaven, the Lord will say "Well done, good and loyal servant. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Don't you want to hear the praise of our Lord Jesus Christ?

According to the context of verse 12, there should not be quarrels and vanity when we co-work in the ministry, but we should achieve maturity and become one. It is a word of exhortation to form a community of love, embracing Christ's heart with fear and trembling. We cannot achieve this by our own will and power. It is only possible when the Holy Spirit in us gives us this wish and makes us do it in order to please God. The Holy Spirit God gives us his heart to love and become one. Not only does he give us the desire, but he also helps us to act. We just have to leave our thoughts, feelings, and will to the Holy Spirit. Then the Holy Spirit will personally fulfill it. We can truly become one in the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, the words "by fear and trembling" here, means that we will face God's judgment when we do not love our fellow workers with the heart of Christ and do not serve the Lord with one heart and one will. When we become one and

there are no resentment and quarrels among us, the world will also recognize God's church and accept the gospel. When we become one, we can have a good influence on the world. I sincerely pray that we can hold on to the word of life and serve the ministry of the gospel and discipleship with one heart in each mission land.

The apostle Paul informed his situation to the church in Philippos, and he wanted to know about them, so he sent Timothy whom he considered as his own son. Timothy was a devoted man and a loyal soldier of Christ who served Christ before himself. He served Paul like a father in the gospel. Also, Epaphroditus was a brother and co-worker in the Lord who devoted himself to death. Paul valued them as blood brothers, a servant of Christ, and life partner. There are many missionaries who devote themselves to the Lord's work rather than their own work and lives. Most missionaries in Latin America serve campus gospel and discipleship amid the danger of guns and robbery—actually, one of our missionaries was shot. We must cherish them, love them deeply, care for them as partners in the Lord, and serve the Lord with one heart and mind.

God pitied a sinner like me. I used to live freely, getting drunk and living a reckless life, without knowing the purpose of my life. God met and saved me at the summer conference in 1991. The Lord helped me find the purpose of my life through Mark 16:15 and pray to live as a missionary, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation*". Since then, I had a selfish ambition of becoming a director missionary in a poor country in Asia, build schools, build hospitals, make many disciples, and live as a recognized great missionary. In 1994, I got married by faith with missionary Hannah, the most beautiful and trustworthy woman in the world. And the following year, we had our first son and prayed to become missionaries to Brazil by naming him Juan, which has a similar pronunciation to João.

In 1996, when missionary Hannah was pregnant with our second daughter, Ester, God sent us to Brazil and helped us to live a missionary life, which we had been praying so earnestly for. Now that I had become a missionary, I thought I had achieved everything. But the life of a missionary was not so easy. The Red Sea of language and financial stability were blocking me. God granted me permanent residency in Brazil with Ester's birth, and gave me grace to receive a scholarship and study for a master's degree at the graduate school of USP in Brazil. But I wanted to be a great missionary rather than studying for a master's degree. I didn't study hard because I considered the scholarship I received while studying for a master's degree as part of my financial stability. While other people finished their master's degree in two years, I finished mine in five. By God's grace, I went into the Ph.D. program immediately, but I had financial difficulties because I couldn't get a scholarship.

In 2005, missionary Sarah Barry, who was the general director at the time, gave the prayer topic of pioneering Ecuador; through this prayer direction and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our family went to Ecuador as missionaries. Through God's servants, we were informed that LG was recruiting employees in Ecuador, so we applied for this job by faith. At that time, at the age of 37, I couldn't speak any Spanish, so it seemed impossible for me to be hired. But when I prayed in obedience to the direction, God personally opened the door. At first, I came to Ecuador and couldn't do anything because of my job. I only prepared and delivered the Sunday message. Around the middle of 2007, something happened at the company and I had to resign. I didn't know how to stand on my own feet. But that year, by God's grace, I got a job at an auto parts company run by Koreans.

During the 2008 Purdue International Conference, God gave Msn. Hannah John 3:16, and helped her understand God's loving heart, not only towards the sheep in developed countries but also the sheep in undeveloped countries like Ecuador. God guided her to shepherd Sarah Luisa Leon through fishing at Guayaquil Medical University that year, and He established her as the first disciple in Ecuador in 2010. In 2012, I lost my job again. However, obeying to God's will, we held Ecuador's first Easter conference wholeheartedly. It was a two-night and three-day Easter conference under the theme of "Go and Make Disciples." A total of 26 people attended and received grace. After that, a total of seven disciples raised, and although I lost my job it seemed I would be able to achieve my dream of becoming a great missionary soon. However, our first child, who was in high school at that time, resolved he did not believe in God; he attributed his suffering in an underdeveloped country to his missionary parents. He became skeptical about his life and went through an identity crisis— unable to identify himself as Korean nor Ecuadorian. I thought he was growing well, but he was rebellious and did not attend Sunday Worship Service. Furthermore, some shepherds and sheep fell in lust and became pregnant and moved away from the ministry. In 2019, we had to cancel the Easter conference due to the Pandemic. I couldn't go out to the campus and fish, and the SWS got to be centered on shepherdess Sarah and my family.

I had started a water purifying business as a result of many twists and turns after losing my job in 2012. But I had to drive seven to eight hours at night by car to exchange filters and returned exhausted. It has been 15 years since we pioneered Ecuador. I thought that if I became a director missionary, I would be able to make a big history, become financially independent, raise many disciples, and grow up well with my children and live a decent missionary life. But the results were completely different. In the meantime, I have not been able to establish a single Abraham, and I feel like I am a failure because of my child's problems and financial problems. I often studied the Bible and served the message with a sense of duty.

In February this year, I was assaulted by a robber with a gun in front of my house and he stole all the money I earned for our rent that month. Missionary Hannah and I entered the house with my head bleeding and gave thanks to God for protecting our lives. Missionary Hannah rebuked me, asking me why I didn't give him my smartphone. She also asked me whether I was afraid. "No, I wasn't afraid," I replied, "If I die, wouldn't I go to heaven?" Missionary Hannah said, "you are trying to go to heaven without thinking about your family. You're being really selfish." Looking back, I realized how selfish I am.

In preparing this message this time, I realized how selfish I was by serving God's ministry for my own glory and seeking people's recognition. I repent that I lived with envy and jealousy, comparing myself to my fellow missionaries who set up many disciples, whose children are doing well, and are serving the ministry without financial difficulties. From now on, I pray that I will learn the mercy, patience, sacrifice, and humility of Jesus, who has persevered and been with me without giving up on selfish and lacking people, so that I can empty myself and humbly work with missionary Hannah. I pray that I can look back on the work of my fellow missionaries and bless them with my heart and pray to co-work with one heart in God's ministry. I pray that sinners will be able to faithfully serve Ecuador's pioneering history while learning our Lord and seeking His recognition.

In conclusion, it is God's will that we become one in heart and mind. However, it is impossible with human effort or strength. It can be done only when we put down selfish greed and vain glory and learn Jesus' heart. I pray that we can faithfully serve the pioneering ministry and the world mission in one heart and mind by learning Jesus' lowliness and humility.