

Let Nothing Be Done Through Selfish Ambition – Philippians 2:1-4

Philippians 2:1-4 [Message Bible] *“If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care, then do me a favour: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.”*

Many people, even Christians, live only to make a good impression on others or to please themselves.

But such an attitude of mind brings only discord and disunity.

When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our problems, we demonstrate Christ’s example of putting others first, and we experience unity.

Don’t be so concerned with your own “*image*” or having your own needs met by others as to put a strain on relationships in God’s family.

Selfish ambition can ruin a church fellowship but genuine humility can strengthen the bonds within that fellowship.

Romans 12:3 [Message Bible] *“I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. **The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.**”*

Healthy self-esteem is important because some of us think too little of ourselves as children of the Creator God.

On the other hand, some of us over-estimate ourselves.

The key to an honest and accurate evaluation is knowing the basis of self-worth, which is the level of the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Christ in us.

Apart from God in us, we are not capable of very much by eternal standards.

To evaluate ourselves by the world’s standards of success causes us to be blinded to our true value in God’s eyes.