

Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB)

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

All of Paul's epistles are divided into two sections.

The first section is the doctrinal section, positional truths. Ch 1:1-26.

The second section is the Christian conduct that is consistent with the positional doctrine. Chapters 1:27 through 3:21

Philippians 1:26 (NASB)²⁶ so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:27 (NASB)²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,

The great difficulty in understanding this epistle is that it is the experience of a heavenly man living on the earth down here.

Can we expect Christians to see eye to eye on every detail?

It is not to be expected that Christians will see eye to eye on every detail.

True unity will be destroyed where self-esteem prevails rather than a higher esteem for others.

How is the spirit of opposition and self-exaltation to be overcome?

"In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. "

We must learn to think beyond ourselves and give serious consideration to others.

The failure in service is that people very generally do *not* come to it from God. But for all effectual service we must come from God, and therefore place service after worship.

It is of a new character, and the Lord opens it out in John 13:12-18.

The selfish and self-seeking man looks out for himself. He is taken up with his own interests.

But the Christian, for the sake of unity, is exhorted to look not on his own interests, but on the interests of others.

May God save us from being so exclusively occupied with our own interests that we are completely unconscious of others; for when we yield to selfishness, we lose in the end.