

New Testament Letters Biblical Commands

Commands from Philippians

1. Philippians 1:27 The gift of eternal salvation demands that the believer conduct a lifestyle that is worthy and proper as a child of God.

Phil 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, (NKJ)

Salvation is the beginning point of the Christian Life where the Lord accepts us in the state He finds us, poor, sinful, and wretched. He expects us (commands us) to start with that salvation foundation and build the new man, one fashioned after the example of the Lord Himself as we "walk in Him."

2. Philippians 2:2 The believer is to fulfill both the mind of Christ and the mind of Apostle Paul in not being self-centered, but placing others above self.

Phil 2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (NKJ)

In context, the like mindedness that is in view is that of love and care of one another that esteems others above self. A secondary position is taken allowing the Lord to promote according to His Will, His pleasure, and His timing. This is what would bring joy to Paul as it speaks to a Christian maturity he is seeking in all under his ministry.

3. Philippians 2:4 The believer is commanded not only to care for his own interests, but to give place to the interests of others.

Phil 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (NKJ)

Making connections with other believers in the family of God by sharing in their interests sustains fellowship and growth in both believers. The Lord performs His work to believers by using other believers.

4. Philippians 2:5 The believer is to develop the very thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ when it comes to personal ambition and importance. Obedience to the will of God is to take precedence.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (NKJ)

The will of the Heavenly Father to precedence with the Lord Jesus Christ. He always placed the will of God first in His life. The believer is commanded to be of the same mind serving the Lord first and foremost above all other considerations.

5. Philippians 2:12 The believer is commanded to work out or build obedience and good works (Divine Good) on the salvation foundation given by the Lord.

Phil 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; (NKJ)

Faith in Christ enters one into the family of God and give the gift of salvation. This is pictured as a foundation on which the believer is to build by learning and keeping the commands of the Lord as well as being led by the Spirit to do the good works commanded by the Lord.

6. Philippians 2:14 The believer is to serve the Lord in all areas without murmurings and disputings.

Phil 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, (NKJ)

The sin nature is still present in the believer after salvation. One of the ways in which the Plan of God and Christian growth is hindered is by giving in to the sin nature when the temptations are to murmur, complain, and dispute over things of little or no consequence. This places the believer out of fellowship and open to more and greater sins.

7.& 8. Philippians 2:18 The believer is to rejoice inwardly before the Lord and rejoice together with others before the Lord.

Phil 2:18 For the same reason you also be glad (joy) and rejoice with me. (NKJ)

One of the ways this was literally carried out in the Old Testament was by way of the "Rejoicing Tithe" (Deut 14:22-26). Individual Israelites and the nation as a whole was to use this second tithe spent on themselves to "rejoice" before the Lord. In the same sense, the New Testament believer is commanded to rejoice individually and collectively before the Lord.

9. Philippians 2:29a Believers are commanded to receive other believers of sound doctrine who are faithfully serving the Lord.

Phil 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; (NKJ)

The individual mentioned is Epaphroditus who had been sent with an offering for Paul. He had also sought to serve the Apostle Paul's needs faithfully and became sick in the process. As he was being returned to Philippi, he was to be received not as a failure, but as a faithful servant completing his mission.

10. Philippians 2:29b Believers are commanded to hold all servants of the Lord serving in sound and faithful capacity in high esteem. Phil 2:29b

Phil 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; (NKJ)

Servants of the Lord who are sound in doctrine and faithfully serving should be lifted up before the Lord and his saints and held in high esteem. The Lord will provide reward in heaven, but some of the esteem is to be from believers on earth.

11. Philippians 3:1 The believer, above all, is to rejoice in the Lord.

Phil 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. (NKJ)

The Christian Life after salvation is totally in the hands of the Lord. For this reason, the believer has every reason to be joyful and to rejoice. Unfortunately, it is whenever the believer gets their eyes on themselves or others and off of the Lord, His Word and His Plan that we lose the joy intended for us by the Lord.

12.-13.-14. Philippians 3:2 The Believer is to be on the lookout for those who would interject heresy into the faith and twist the Word of God.

Phil 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! (NKJ)

Three similar commands all call attention to the same issues, namely those who would pervert the faith. The truth of God's Word stands, but there are counterfeits and those who would seek to twist and entangle the believer in error. Satan does this to hinder the Plan of God. The believer is to be ever aware.

15. Philippians 3:17 The believer is encouraged to watch and follow the example of more mature believers who are walking soundly with the Lord.

Phil 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. (NKJ)

The goal for all believers is to get our eyes on the example of Jesus Himself. However, in the meantime, more mature believers like the Apostle Paul, who are walking in the ways of the Lord and in obedience of His Word, are good example to watch and mimic.

16. Philippians 3:17 The believer is to observe other believers who are walking in the ways of the Lord and grow applicationally following their example.

Phil 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. (NKJ)

Part of the growth of the believer is in observing and learning from more mature obedient believers who are walking in the ways of the Lord and applying His Word. In observing, the tests are compliance to God's Word.

17. Philippians 4:1 The believer is to take a stand for the Lord, His Laws, His ways, and His Plan and stand firm.

Phil 4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. (NKJ)

As the Word of God is learned, it is to be believed, and ultimately applied to life and life circumstances. The believer is commanded to firmly stand in the ways and principles of truth set forth by the Lord.

18. Philippians 4:3 The believer is commanded to help other believers who may be involved in sins or disputes to resolve these issues biblically.

Phil 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. (NKJ)

The two women who were disputing in the Philippian church needed the insight and the help of a third objective person. The believer is commanded to help with an objective biblical view to resolving issues between believers.

19.-20. Philippians 4:4 The believer is to rejoice in the Christian life and be joyful before the Lord.

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (NKJ)

In the Plan of God, the Lord promises that "all things are working together for good." Therefore, on the practical level of everyday life, the believer has little reason for worry and every reason to rejoice. Obedience to the rejoicing command removes much stress from the believer's life.

21. Philippians 4:5 The attitude of the believer is to be one of gentleness and forbearance of the shortcomings or innocent mistakes of others.

Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (NKJ)

The details of this original word "gentleness" involves such things as a "kind courteous response," "not insisting on every right of the letter of law in a matter." The believer has an attitude of graciousness compared to the attitudes of the world. This has a special testimony of God's graciousness for the world.

22. Philippians 4:6a The believer is to avoid worrying.

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (NKJ)

The tendency of most persons is to fret, worry, and carry the load on oneself. Because the believer is in the plan of God, there is no need to worry - we are commanded not to worry. The Lord has a plan and we have responsibilities and worry will not change anything.

23. Philippians 4:6b The believer is to share all concerns, requests, even complaints with the Lord.

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (NKJ)

The Lord gives the Apostle Paul the most basic prayer promise. Here, the Lord does not promise to change the circumstances or to turn things in a different direction. His promise is for His surpassing peace of mind and peace in the heart. The Lord wants us to dump our concerns on Him.

24. Philippians 4:8 The thought life of the believer is to be focused on the virtuous and praiseworthy things in life.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things. (NKJ)

There are seven areas that the believer is instructed to dwell on or to keep on focusing attention. In a fallen world filled with sin, evil and the results of both, these are the things we are commanded to focus on.

25. Philippians 4:21 The believer is to be cordial in meeting and greeting other believers.

Phil 4:21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. (NKJ)

All believers are saints and part of God's family. We are commanded to meet and greet them as family members in the Lord.

Summary of Commands in Philippians

1. Conduct a lifestyle worthy of a member of the family of God. #1
2. The believer is to fulfill both the mind of Christ and the mind of Apostle Paul in not being self-centered, but placing others above self. #2,3,4
3. By daily choices for the Lord the Believer is to work out experiential sanctification. #5
4. The believer is to serve the Lord in all areas without murmurings and disputings. #6
5. The believer is to rejoice in the Lord and in His Plan. #7,8,11,19,20
6. Believers are commanded to greet and receive other believers of sound doctrine who are faithfully serving the Lord giving faithful leaders high esteem. #9,10,25
7. The believer is to constantly be aware of the enemies of grace, the faith and practice of faith. #12,13,14
8. The believer is to begin the Christian Life by observing and following the more mature. #15,16
9. The believer is to stand firm in the faith at all times. #17
10. The believer is to help other believers resolve their disputes when call to help. #18
11. The attitude of the believer is to be one of gentleness and forbearance of the shortcomings or innocent mistakes of others. #21
12. The believer is to avoid worrying. #22
13. The believer is to share all concerns, requests, even complaints with the Lord. #23
14. The thought life of the believer is to be focused on the virtuous and praiseworthy things in life. #24