

Philippians 2:1-11
International Bible Lesson Study Hints
for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Which of these seem most important to you: “encouragement in Christ, consolation from love, sharing in the Spirit, compassion and sympathy”? Why”

If we know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will find encouragement in Christ and share in the Spirit who will indwell us; then, we will receive consolation from love,

compassion, and sympathy from Christ and can share Christ's consolation from love, compassion, and sympathy with others. Consolation from love, compassion, and sympathy flow from our relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

2. How might a leader mislead people using these words: “be of the same mind and have the same love and be in full accord”?

A leader might try to compel or manipulate others into being of the same mind as his desires and thoughts, and tell them to always agree with him, rather than trying to encourage everyone to be of the same mind as (and with) Jesus Christ as their Lord and the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit enlightens true Christians.

3. What happens when selfish ambition is expressed in the church, especially among leaders?

Selfish ambition will divide people from one another, and people will try to use God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and one another to try to achieve their personal goals instead of God's goals. Selfish leaders may try to divide the church into fighting groups and split the church to have their own church or control the church.

4. What do believers need to do to have the mind that was in Christ Jesus?

They need to pray, read the Bible, study, and think to try to understand the mind of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths from the Bible they need for understanding as they study the Bible. They need to humble themselves before the Lord and develop a teachable spirit by obeying God with greater commitment, repenting of their sins as they are revealed to them, and resolving to be better servants of Jesus Christ as their understanding increases.

5. How can you apply what Paul wrote to the Philippians to the situation of obedience today as you see it?

Emphasize that Jesus Christ is King of the universe and of every person whether they acknowledge Christ's Lordship or not. Everyone needs to learn the will of Christ from a prayerful study of the Bible in order to obey the Lord Jesus Christ and avoid the just consequences of disobedience to God.

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