



Philippians – Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4

Harmonious Souls

- Individual notes in succession

Melody

- Multiple notes at the same time

Harmony – when they work well together

Discord – when they clash and conflict

*God's design: the church as a beautiful community
of harmonious souls, pleasing to the Father.*

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

- Relationships are central to our faith

All spiritual growth takes place in relationships

God develops us thru relationships and suffering

Our relationships with each other reveal the reality of our relationship with Him

- The enemy is hell-bent on destroying relationships
- The vertical → the horizontal

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

– If ... then ...

The reality/truthfulness of the 'if' is assumed: 'if there is, *and there is*,...

– **Blessings and benefits of knowing Christ**

■ Encouragement – for the Paraclete has come
John 14-16

■ Comfort – since God is with us, it's OK. Ps
62:11,12

■ Fellowship – we're connected to God through the
new birth. II Pet 1:4

■ Tenderness / Compassion – mercy not wrath

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

Harmony of Souls (vs. 2)

– Like minded

minding or attending to the same things

Phil 1:4; Phil 4:8

playing off the same score – tuned to the same key

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

Harmony of Souls (vs. 2)

- Like minded
- Having the same love – I John 4:19; Rom 5:5
- Being of 'one accord' – 'of one mind'

Harmonious souls!

Being on the same wave-length

Unanimity, not uniformity

Different notes that don't grate, jar and clash
but instead 'work well together' - harmonize

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

Harmony of Souls (vs. 2)

Ladders and Ratings (vs. 3,4)

– **Self Promotion**

i.e. selfish ambition

III John 9 – Diotrephes “who loves to be 1st”

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

Harmony of Souls (vs. 2)

Ladders and Ratings (vs. 3,4)

- **Self Promotion**
- **Self Exaltation**

empty glory

'good' boasting – Jer 9:23,24!

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal (vs. 1)

Harmony of Souls (vs. 2)

Ladders and Ratings (vs. 3,4)

- Self Promotion
- Self Exaltation
- Looking down on others

“consider others better than yourselves” – better:
“look up to others”

Life in Christ: no ladders and no ratings!

Above the Circumstances!

Phil 2:1-4 *Harmonious Souls*

Note how astonishingly it works: as I consider you above, you likewise consider me above, and so all around. A marvelous community in which no one is looked down upon, but everyone is looked up to!

God's design: the church as beautiful community of harmonious souls, pleasing to the Father

