

Philippians 2:1-4

- Bill Noble



Philippians 2:1-5 (NRSV)

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love,
any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy,

2 make my joy complete:
be of the same mind,
having the same love,
being in full accord
and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition
or conceit,
but in humility
regard others as better than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others.

5 Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,

*Does Paul think these
are actually possible?
Or are they simply
ideals toward which we
should strive?*

In other words ...

- Ethical imperative?
 - “Failure is not an option.”
- Ethical ideal?
 - “I have a dream.”

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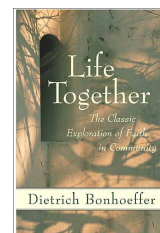
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*“Failure is not an option”
or
“I have a dream”?*

Another Perspective

- Ethical imperative?
 - “Failure is not an option.”
- Ethical ideal?
 - “I have a dream.”
- Divine reality?



simul justus et peccator

- Justus: Christian brotherhood
- Peccator: wishful idea of religious fellowship
- "... Christian brotherhood is threatened most often at the very start by ... the danger of confusing Christian brotherhood with some wishful idea of religious fellowship In Christian brotherhood everything depends upon its being clear right from the beginning, first, that Christian brotherhood is not an ideal, but a divine reality." (*Life Together*, p. 26)

So what is Paul saying?

- Ethical Imperative?
 - "We enter into that common life not as demanders but as thankful recipients"
- Ethical Ideal?
 - "God hates visionary dreaming"

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the very hour of disillusionment
with my brother becomes
incomparably salutary, because it
so thoroughly teaches me that
neither of us can ever live by our
own words and deeds, but only by
the one Word and Deed which
really binds us together – the
forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ