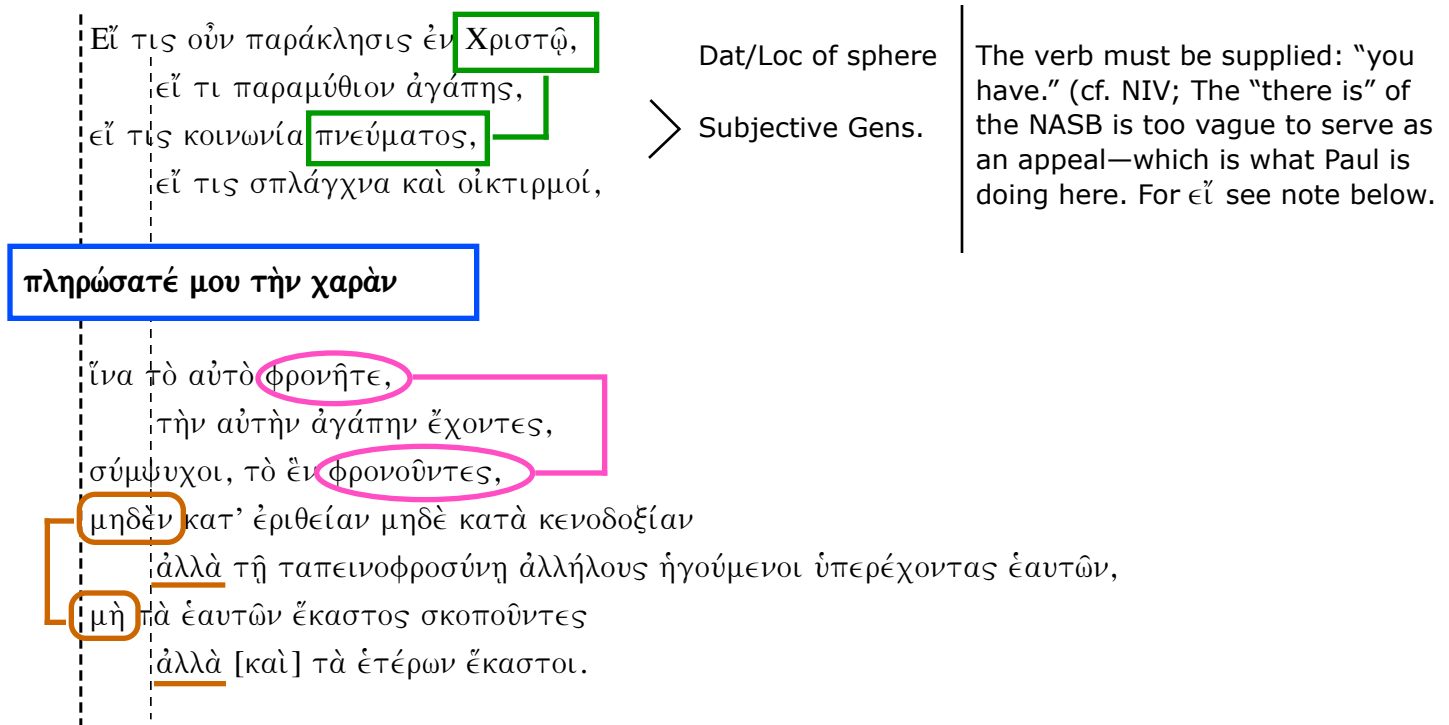


Philippians 2:1–4 • Structural Diagram*



Notes:

- The εἴ should be translated as “if”—not “since” to avoid missing the rhetorical appeal which Paul makes. He appeals to his readers to come to their own conclusion. “Since” makes it too cut and dried to convey the tone of appeal. This is a theological appeal, not a theological thesis.
- The conditional statements in v. 1 provide the *grounds* for the exhortation, which is found in v. 2a.
- V. 2 stresses the importance of unity. ἵνα is a content clause (also called apposition; *not* purpose) giving the object of a verb that must be supplied from the context (try: παρακαλῶ “beseech”).
- The participles may be taken instrumentally (“by...”), modifying the supplied verb παρακαλῶ).
- V. 3 emphasizes that humility ταπεινοφροσύνῃ is the key to unity.
- Note the parallel structure marked in the diagram above.