

HUMILITY - PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

¹⁻⁴ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- This connects to what's just been stated. Keep that in mind. When the world is against you, you always have each other to lean on, which is why the following is so important. Imagine fighting without . . . and within the body!
- "If" seems to be rhetorical, yet it challenges. One could say, "Of course there is!" However, perhaps that isn't true of everyone, and so a man or woman is challenged to reflect. What is there at North Collin? Or for that matter any local fellowship? What are we doing? What's the point? What are we about? Or perhaps more importantly - **who are we about?**
 - Do you find?
 - Encouragement
 - Comfort
 - Participation
 - Affection and Sympathy
 - What's the source?
 - Christ
 - Love
 - Spirit
- What would complete his joy?
 - Same mind
 - Same love
 - Full accord (one accord; united in spirit). Harmony
 - One mind
 - Doesn't this sound like what you'd want in a marriage? Do parents desire this for their children? Do we have this with the Lord?
- What gets in the way of this happening?
 - Ourselves. Pride. When you've got Me, Myself, and I, there's no room for anyone else!
 - Paul says "do nothing" or "let nothing be done" from selfishness or conceit/empty conceit. Conceit meaning "a vain or exaggerated self-evaluation, vanity, conceit, excessive ambition". I find the "exaggerated self-evaluation" interesting. In other words - you think too much of yourself.
 - Listen, this is how the world operates. This is why it's a mess to begin with. Things would be much easier if we were all humble. I've told some of you before that racial issues would be radically improved if we listened to this. Churches wouldn't be on the verge of splitting over wearing masks (God forgive us) if we'd follow this. Local fellowships would really feel like a family. We'd make time for one another. Invest in

one another. We'd handle scriptural concerns much better. The reality is: there's no aspect of our lives that wouldn't be impacted.

⁵⁻⁸ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Here's the real point: why we do what we do? Because of Christ. There are many people in the world who do "good" things. I fear Christians misunderstand this. I'm not saying the world isn't a mess . . . they are. But the main goal isn't to get others to be "as good" or a little better than the world. The world has taken note of "good men and women" over the centuries. There is good all around. No, the main focus is to acknowledge God. Our goal is to do what we do "in His name."
- Several translations change the format of verses 6-11 to read as a song/poem. Many speculate, based on form, that Paul is either creating a Christ-hymn or referencing a song known by the Christian community at that time. There's no reason for me to object that it's in poem form (nor am I in position to because I don't know Greek). As to whether it was a preexisting Christ-hymn, the scholars disagree. Mentioning this incase you come across it, but either way it matters not (at least as I understand it).
- Point: Jesus emptied Himself (that is He came as one of us in a lower status) to serve mankind. He didn't take advantage of His deity, nor was it out of His reach.
 - NKJV "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,"
 - Also can be translated "a thing to be utilized or asserted."
 - He did not empty His deity.
 - NKJV "but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men
 - See Colossians 1:19; 2:9.
 - Jesus was with God in the beginning. He is God. How could He humble Himself in death if He was a created? The fact that He had to do so points to His deity.
 - *"There are many religions in the world, but only one Christianity, for only Christianity has a God who gave Himself for mankind. World religions attempt to reach up to God, Christianity is God reaching down to man."* Billy Graham
 - Yes we are to seek after God (Acts 17:27), but Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 is a good passage to consider when reading this passage.

⁹⁻¹¹ Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- It's not that Jesus is the only one to die on behalf of someone else. They're called soldiers. They're called fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. They're called friends. However, none of them are God. None of them emptied themselves like He did, because no man is equal to God. Therefore, Jesus gave up far more than man ever has and it is fitting that He holds all authority.
- This does seem to point to a future picture. "Every knee should bow" or "every knee will bow"? From what I've read there is no difference in the Greek, which is why it's been translated both ways. It carries the idea of a future truth. If that's the case - it doesn't matter who you are or what you believed. There will come a time when all will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. Not as one created by God, but as God to the glory of the Father.
- What do you say to this portion of scripture? This is frustrating for me, because the passage is so powerful and I can't seem to stress how important it is in words. However, I imagined a situation where either my oldest brother or myself had to give our lives. Let's say he pleads with me to allow his death. Perhaps he would say he's had more time with his wife and children. Now, imagine watching a loved one give their lives for you. You see it with your own eyes. Do you think that would change the way you spend your time with your wife, children, and friends? Do you think it would change your mindset at work? Do you think you'd value life and time a bit more? Do you think you'd be sensitive about wasting time? What about the opportunity to serve others for their benefit? So, you get the point. But how do we react and view our lives when the one who gave their life was God? I honestly don't know how to articulate this, nor do I think we actually have the ability to comprehend it, because we don't comprehend who He is - so we don't understand what He did.