

REJOICE!

Joy in Humility, Philippians 2:1-11

The Right Foundation for Humility is Unity

Philippians 2:1-4 (KJV) ¹ If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

- Philippians 2 begins where Philippians 1 left off with Paul exhorting the Philippians to stand strong against *external conflicts*
- Philippi was a strong church with a diverse congregation from various backgrounds and walks of life
- With so many backgrounds among the members, unity must have been difficult to maintain
- When a church is strong and active it must guard it must give more attention to maintaining its unity
- Paul wanted the church guard against any attitude that may lead to dissension
- Selfishness can ruin a church, but genuine humility can build and keep it strong
- The foundations stones to build unity are:
 - *Consolation* – an attitude of encouragement, comfort and strengthening others
 - Consolation is a character trait of Jesus Himself who encouraged believers to be one in spirit and be busy doing the ministry of His church
 - *Love* – It is the selfless, unconditional, sacrificial love of Jesus Christ
 - It is agape, the God kind of love
 - *Fellowship in the Spirit* - When believers receive the Holy Spirit, they have fellowship of the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, teach and equip them to do the work of the Lord
 - The Holy Spirit creates a union among believers by blending their lives, hearts and gifts together to fulfill the Lord's purpose
 - *Compassion* – It is the affection and mercy of God that we have experienced and that we are to share with others
 - *Joy* - Believers in the church are to be concerned for each other's joy

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- *Lowliness of Mind* – Lowliness of mind does not mean you view yourself as worthless, it means you value who you are, but you are not arrogant, prideful, and full of yourself
 - Ambition is not wrong when it is to glorify God and serve Him with everything, we have
 - You are not be motivated by strife or selfish ambition or conceit
 - Paul challenges us to do nothing through strife or vain glory
 - We are to esteem others better than ourselves; instead of pushing our way to the top; we help others get ahead
- *Look Out for the Interests of Others* – As we put away selfish interests, conceitedness and desire to think only of our own advancement, we will have a greater concern for the interests and needs of others

Jesus' Humility

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- Before Paul describes Jesus' humility, he first tells us what he wants us to *do* with what he's about to tell us
- This is not merely information; it is a command that believers are to imitate
- He says let this mind be in you, meaning you have a choice to make
- The same mind that existed in Jesus that led Jesus to give up everything He was and had; that same mindset is to be in us
- Jesus Christ was humble, willing to give up his rights in order to obey God and serve people
- You can approach life expecting to be served, or you can look for opportunities to humbly serve others

Jesus' Deity

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

- Jesus is of the very nature of God
- Jesus is not like God, Jesus *is* God
- Jesus *being in the form of God*, meaning permanent, constant, the very essence of God
- Jesus possesses the very attributes of God Himself
- Jesus is *equal with God* means to be on an *equal basis* with God; to possess all the attributes of God Himself
- Jesus thought it not robbery to be equal with God

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- Jesus was not trying to hold on or achieve equality with God because He already had it
- Jesus' divine nature was not something He had to seek or acquire because it was *already* His
- To follow Jesus' example of humility means recognizing you have gifts from God, but not getting lifted up in pride

Jesus' Humility

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- Jesus made Himself of *no reputation* meaning He *emptied Himself* and became a man
- Jesus *remained* God, but He emptied Himself of all the glory, majesty, honor and worship of heaven
 - Jesus took a huge step down from heaven to earth
- This step down from heaven to earth is the *humility of Christ*
- Jesus was made into the likeness of men; Jesus became a man
- Jesus came to earth not as royalty, but as a humble servant of people
- Jesus emptied Himself *into* the form of a servant
- Jesus *further* humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, the death of the cross
- Jesus could only experience *obedience* by leaving the throne of heaven and coming to earth
- Jesus had to humble Himself, come to earth in the form of a servant to *learn* obedience through suffering ***Hebrews 5:8 (KJV) 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;***
- Jesus humbled Himself to the death of the cross
- That shows the extent of Jesus humility and obedience
- Jesus humbled Himself to experience the most despised death of all, dying on the cross
- Jesus' death on the cross shows there is no limit to what God will do to demonstrate his love and saving power for us
- God's power is not only revealed in times of exaltation and deliverance, but also through humble service and enduring suffering
- To follow Jesus' example of humility means there are some things we must let go of
 - You don't hold on, but you let go

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- You're willing to serve using the gifts God has given you
- You humble yourself and obey God

Jesus' Exaltation

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Jesus was rewarded for His humility, God highly exalted Him
- Jesus humbled Himself in obedience to God the Father
- Jesus was honored so highly that God:
 1. Has given Jesus a name above every name
 2. God has given Jesus supreme authority; at the name of Jesus every knee must bow
 3. God has given Jesus supreme worship; every tongue must confess Jesus is Lord
- God is going to see to it that *every person* will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father
 - Every creature is going to worship Him as Lord, the Lord God of the universe.
- The point is clear; God will exalt the believers that humbles themselves and works for the unity of the church
- To follow Jesus' example of humility means our humility will lead to our exaltation, not in a worldly sense but in a *spiritual* sense; by being honored by God, fulfilling our God-given purpose and one day experiencing joy in heaven