

Face to Face Questions October 19, 2014  
Link to Sermon and Questions online

**Main Passage** - Philippians 2:1-11

**Supporting Passages** - Isaiah 14:12-14; Luke 9:23; Galatians 2:20

*Jesus is our example (Phil. 2:1–5).* Paul looked with awe at Jesus' willing surrender of the prerogatives of Deity to become a human being, and to die for us on a cross. But the self-sacrifice of Jesus is also a powerful call to the believer. Those of us who look to Jesus as our Savior are also to look to Him as our example! In fact, our "attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

When we adopt His attitude, there will be a dramatic impact on our relationships with others. We will be "like-minded." What Paul envisions here is a *community* of believers who model their personal relationships with each other on Jesus. Such a community will be united, having "the same love," and being one in spirit and purpose (v. 2). Our unity will not be based on having the same convictions (see Rom. 14–15), or even on holding exactly the same doctrines (see 1 Corinthians 8–10). Ours will be a unity that grows out of love; out of a Christlike attitude.

Paul then looked at how that attitude is expressed in individuals. It is expressed by doing "nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3–4). It is this total unselfishness that we see exhibited so powerfully by Jesus. He did not "grasp at" His equality with God. He "made Himself nothing" to come to earth as a human being—a bondservant. Here He even humbled Himself to the extent that He willingly died a criminal's death. And all for us.

If you and I have this attitude toward our brothers and sisters in Jesus, there *will* be Christian unity. And we will truly be one, in spirit and purpose. We, like Jesus, will live to serve. And in serving we, like Jesus, will find the way of exaltation.

This, of course, was part of Paul's total vision. Because Jesus humbled Himself, God the Father exalted Him—"to the highest place" (v. 9). For us as well as for Jesus, the way *up* is down. For us, as for Jesus, God exalts us when we humble ourselves in service of others.

*Jesus is God (Phil. 2:6–11).* This is the foundational truth in Christianity. In this confession the early church affirmed the pre-existence of Jesus as God, affirmed His incarnation as a true human being, affirmed His death on the cross, His resurrection and His coming again to be revealed as Lord of all.

### Ice Breaker

Who takes out the trash in your home? Cleans the bathrooms?  
What is your pet peeve at home?

### Questions

1. Reading between the lines, what was happening in the church at Philippi that Paul was addressing?
2. What does it mean to consider someone “better than yourself” (*verse 3*)? How does humility differ from being a doormat?
3. What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human? To take on himself the sin of mankind?
4. How does this passage challenge society’s definition of success?
5. Who do you admire because they truly put the interests of others ahead of their own interests? How do you balance meeting the needs of others with meeting your own needs?
6. When have you been in a fellowship or group that cared for one another like Paul describes here? What made this group so close?
7. What is one specific way that you will choose to imitate Christ’s attitude of humility this coming week? What motivates you?

***“Humility is an attitude that leads to an action.”***