



Philippians 2:1-11

October 11, 2020

“I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

Begin with prayer. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

Our study this week contains one of the most amazing passages in the Bible.

Following Jesus

Read Philippians 2:1-4:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being 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 count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

[Q] What are the four signs of being in Christ that Paul points to in verse 1?

[Q] According to verses 2-3, how are the Philippians to complete Paul’s joy?

[Q] In verse 3 Paul invites the Philippians to show humility by treating others within the church community as more important than themselves. How does humility help someone to serve others joyfully?

[Q] When you face pressure in life, do you tend to become more selfish or less selfish?

[Q] What steps can you take to ensure that you consistently look to others’ interests instead of your own?¹

[Q] Who in your life who you can serve unselfishly and joyfully this week?

¹ Question from: Jeffrey E. Miller, *Philippians: Confident in Christ*, Not Your Average Bible Study

Thinking Like Jesus

Read Philippians 2:5–11:

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Q] What does it mean in verse 6 that Jesus was “in the form of God”? Read John 1:1–4, 14–18, and Colossians 1:15–20.

[Q] What exactly was Jesus’ mindset, that Paul says we should imitate?
Why do you think we find that so difficult?

[Q] What does it mean that Jesus “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”?

[Q] What did Jesus give up when he became man? Read John 17:5 and 2 Corinthians 8:9.

[Q] Jesus serves as a perfect example for us, but He is also much more than just an example. Why did God send His Son to die on the cross? Read 1 Peter 3:18.

Apply

[Q] How might thinking like Jesus affect your

- Marriage, if married?
- Parenting, if a parent?
- Friendships?
- Relationships at church?
- Family relations?

Think for a moment about who these incredible verses are describing. Jesus is the Creator! All the angels of heaven worship and adore Him! All the forces of evil run screaming at the mention of His name! And yet He left the glory of heaven to come to the lowest place on earth. He exchanged riches for poverty; a sapphire-paved court for a stable floor. Out of love for you! It is a mark of His true greatness that He was so humble, dedicated, obedient, and selfless. And it is a mark of our utter weakness and sinfulness that we struggle so hard to be any of these things. So: Time for some confession? And time for some praise?
— Explore Devotional -Philippians