

Jesus's Humility and Sacrifice Compel Us to Selflessness and Worshipful Gratitude

Philippians 2:1-11

- October 4th and 11th in 2020
 - Paul's primary emphasis is humility, selflessness, and love, because of Jesus's example and enabling. But, as important, is the glorious description of Jesus's sacrifice and exaltation which objectively and experientially leads to worship.
 - What we value connects to both imperatives. One is explicit: Allow gospel realities to shape your selflessness (Vs. 1-5). The other is implicit: Be deeply affected in submission and worship at the humbling, sacrifice, and exaltation of Jesus (Vs. 6-11).
 - The incarnation, life, and death of Jesus are the ultimate motivation for humility, selflessness, and love, along with simple adoration at the depth of what he has done in saving us.
- I. Vs. 1-5 - We are called to love, likemindedness, and selfless humility because of the depth of gospel realities we experience.
- A. Vs. 1 - Gospel blessings are exhaustive and compelling.
- **Vs. 1** - So if there is any encouragement in Christ (In Jesus, we have utmost encouragement, both by his work and personally from him.), any comfort from love (Our greatest comfort is that we are infinitely loved by the Father.), any participation in the Spirit (We have participated in every benefit by the Spirit, he dwells in us, and we truly are in relationship.), any affection and sympathy (God is passionate and compassionate toward us in his love.),
- B. Vs. 2-4 - These realities have a profound effect, leading to unity, love, likemindedness, and selflessness.
- **Vs. 2** - Complete my joy (Paul has found a gospel-shaped joy (Vs. 1) that is more rewarding than self-seeking, and he desires it for them. Their unity in truth and love will bring him joy.) by being of the same mind (Uniquenesses, yet Scriptural and gospel likemindedness.), having the same love (from the Lord.), being in full accord and of one mind. **Vs. 3** - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **Vs. 4** - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Counterintuitive. **My** preferences. Examples. "Comments." "My nature." My observations as a leader. The joy of not having to be right.).
 - Selfless humility is the basis of all of this. It's a God-given ability to renounce our natural tendency to think too much of our own desires, abilities, preferences, or view of the way things should be, that we can't manufacture.
 - 1 Pt. 5:5 - Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- II. Vs. 5-8 - Jesus's Gospel work is the example and enablement for this mindset, and this is captivating, and sufficient.
- A. Vs. 5 - This mindset is ours because of who we are in our union with Jesus.
- **Vs. 5** - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
 - The command to do this cannot be done naturally. It is possible and expected only in Jesus. In vs. 6-8, Paul portrays what Jesus did to stir our hearts in gratitude, and enable our minds in reflecting.
 - 2 Co. 5:14-15 - ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
- B. Vs. 6-8 - And there is immeasurable depth in what he did to save us. This stands alone in its gospel glory, and compels and enables us to reflect his heart.
1. Vs. 6 - He has eternally existed as the Son of God, yet laid aside the privilege associated with this to save us.
- **Vs. 6** - Who, though he was in the form of God (He. 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.), did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
 - Jesus didn't view his equality with his Father as something to be held onto at all costs to maintain his comfort (as we are prone to do). Dignity to servanthood and rejection. For selfish and sinful people. Retained deity.
2. Vs. 7 - His emptying of himself, servanthood, and humanity are glorious and compelling.

- **Vs. 7 -** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
 - Jn. 1:14 - The Word became... He. 2:14 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil... Jn. 13:4-5 - ⁴ He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet... Mystery and glory of incarnation.
3. Vs. 8 - As God and man, his humility, obedience, and death are ultimately glorious and ultimately compelling.
- **Vs. 8 -** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - Humility - Ro. 15:3 - Christ did not please himself. 2 Co. 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
 - Obedience. Ro. 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened... His obedience, in a unique way in God's design, led to not the expected reward, but his wrath-bearing suffering.
 - Death on cross. Physical part. Mt. 27:35-51. Jn. 19:30 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Is. 53:5-6 - ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 1 Pt. 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. 2 Co. 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - His self-humbling is the basis of the grace that enables us to count others more significant than ourselves. But his humility and obedience to death did more than that. They forgive our sins. This produces adoration and worship. Ga. 6:14 - Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
 - The motivation and enablement because of what we have in Jesus to walk in humility, love, and selflessness first grips the heart in gratitude and wonder. This demonstrates his love and grace. Ro. 5:8 - But God shows...
- III. Vs. 9 - God's exaltation of Jesus and giving him the uniqueness of the name Lord is also glorious and compelling in and of itself, and in its relation to love, likemindedness, and humility.
- **Vs. 9 -** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
- IV. Vs. 10-11 - This exaltation leads to a universal - including believers - response of humble worship and submission to Jesus as Lord, to the glory of God.
- **Vs. 10 -** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **Vs. 11 -** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - Gospel-captivated, Jesus-captivated, people, can move from selfishness to humility and love, because of the very fact that our affections have been captivated by the depth of what he has done to exemplify and enable selfless humility, and because this also, most importantly, saves us.
 - Ga. 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.