

Motivated by God

“A Humble Spirit”

Luke 10:38-42

- ☞ What would anyone like to share how you stepped out in faith and let God use the gifts he has given you?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdFdoWlyUDA>

- ☞ What would you like to praise God for today?

<https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=WZ6PG7NX>

Phil 2:1-11 (NLT)

Unity through Humility

1 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic?

2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.

3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.

4 Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

Christ's Humility and Exaltation

5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.

8 And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

9 Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

☞ **Pray for God's guidance as you study**

1. Reading between the lines, what was wrong with the church in Philippi? What is Paul encouraging us to guard against? [Would you want to part of such a church?](#)
2. Did Jesus give up His deity to become human?
3. What made Jesus humanity unique from ours? What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human?
4. From this passage, what reasons would you give for why Jesus is described as being humble?
5. What do you think it was like for Jesus to take on Himself the sin of mankind? [What is like for you when you are falsely accused or punished for someone else's wrongdoing?](#)
6. How does humility differ from being a doormat? (see Romans 12:3)
7. What is the result of Jesus' obedience to the father for himself? For us? For the Father?
8. What does it mean to develop an attitude of humility as we serve - to consider someone "better than yourself"?
9. Who do you admire because they truly put the interests of others ahead of their own interests?

Wrap-up: The Spirit that empowered Jesus' humility is available to us today. Where are you most likely to need empowering to serve humbly - at home? At work? At church? Elsewhere? Why?

Prayer: For one another

Commentary Notes from the Life Application Bible

Chapter 2

Notes for Verses 1-5

Many people -- even Christians -- live only to make a good impression on others or to please themselves. But "selfish ambition or vain conceit" brings discord. Paul therefore stressed spiritual unity, asking the Philippians to love one another and to be one in spirit and purpose. When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our problems, we demonstrate Christ's example of putting others first, and we experience unity. Don't be so concerned about making a good impression or meeting your own needs that you strain relationships in God's family.

Notes for Verse 3

Selfish ambition can ruin a church, but genuine humility can build it. Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves (see Romans 12:3). It does not mean that we should put ourselves down. Before God, we are sinners, saved only by God's grace, but we *are* saved and therefore have great worth in God's kingdom. We are to lay aside selfishness and treat others with respect and common courtesy. Considering others' interests as more important than our own links us with Christ, who was a true example of humility.

Notes for Verse 4

Philippi was a cosmopolitan city. The composition of the church reflected great diversity, with people from a variety of backgrounds and walks of life. Acts 16 gives us some indication of the diverse makeup of this church. The church included Lydia, a Jewish convert from Asia and a wealthy businesswoman (Acts 16:14); the slave girl (Acts 16:16, 17), probably a native Greek; and the jailer serving this colony of the empire, probably a Roman (Acts 16:25-36). With so many different backgrounds among the members, unity must have been difficult to maintain. Although there is no evidence of division in the church, its unity had to be safeguarded (Php 3:2; Php 4:2). Paul encourages us to guard against any selfishness, prejudice, or jealousy that might lead to

dissension. Showing genuine interest in others is a positive step forward in maintaining unity among believers.

Notes for Verse 5

Jesus Christ was humble, willing to give up his rights in order to obey God and serve people. Like Christ, we should have a servant's attitude, serving out of love for God and for others, not out of guilt or fear. Remember, you can choose your attitude. You can approach life expecting to be served, or you can look for opportunities to serve others. See Mark 10:45 for more on Christ's attitude of servanthood.

2:5-7 The *incarnation* was the act of the preexistent Son of God voluntarily assuming a human body and human nature. Without ceasing to be God, he became a human being, the man called Jesus. He did not give up his deity to become human, but he set aside the right to his glory and power. In submission to the Father's will, Christ limited his power and knowledge. Jesus of Nazareth was subject to place, time, and many other human limitations. What made his humanity unique was his freedom from sin. In his full humanity, Jesus showed us everything about God's character that can be conveyed in human terms. The incarnation is explained further in these passages: John 1:1-14; Romans 1:2-5; 2Corinthians 8:9; 1Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14; and 1John 1:1-3.

2:5-11 These verses are probably from a hymn sung by the early Christian church. The passage holds many parallels to the prophecy of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53. As a hymn, it was not meant to be a complete statement about the nature and work of Christ. Several key characteristics of Jesus Christ, however, are praised in this passage: (1) Christ has always existed with God; (2) Christ is equal to God because he *is* God (John 1:1ff; Colossians 1:15-19); (3) though Christ is God, he became a man in order to fulfill God's plan of salvation for all people; (4) Christ did not just have the appearance of being a man -- he actually became human to identify with our sins; (5) Christ voluntarily laid aside his divine rights and privileges out of love for his Father; (6) Christ died on the cross for our sins so we wouldn't have to face eternal death; (7) God glorified Christ because of his obedience; (8) God raised Christ to his original position at the Father's right hand, where he will reign forever as our Lord and Judge. How can we do anything less than praise Christ as our Lord and dedicate ourselves to his service!

2:5-11 Often people excuse selfishness, pride, or evil by claiming their rights. They think, "I can cheat on this test; after all, I deserve to pass this class," or "I can spend all this money on myself -- I worked hard for it," or "I can get an abortion; I have a right to control my own body." But as believers, we should have a different attitude, one that enables us to lay aside our rights in order to serve others. If we say we follow Christ, we must also say we want to live as he lived. We should develop his attitude of humility as we serve, even when

we are not likely to get recognition for our efforts. Are you selfishly clinging to your rights, or are you willing to serve?

Notes for Verse 8

Death on a cross (crucifixion) was the form of capital punishment that Romans used for notorious criminals. It was excruciatingly painful and humiliating. Prisoners were nailed or tied to a cross and left to die. Death might not come for several days, and it usually came by suffocation when the weight of the weakened body made breathing more and more difficult. Jesus died as one who was cursed (Galatians 3:13). How amazing that the perfect man should die this most shameful death so that we would not have to face eternal punishment!

Notes for Verses 9-11

At the last judgment even those who are condemned will recognize Jesus' authority and right to rule. People can choose to regard Jesus as Lord now as a step of willing and loving commitment or be forced to acknowledge him as Lord when he returns. Christ may return at any moment. Are you prepared to meet him?