

Philippians 2:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

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

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

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

At church a four-year-old in church was excited when he heard it was the day for communion – he was excited for the wine and bread. He was very interested in this and told his dad. About this time his mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion.

Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, stating, “If I can’t eat, I’m not paying.”

Just so you know, you are never too young and never too old to come and feast at the table of the Lord – this is the Lord’s table.

It began last night- as you were going to bed—World communion Sunday.

Asian Christians shared the bread and the wine.

Churches in China met in secret so that they would not be arrested.

Christians in the Middle East likely met under the watchful eye of the government as they celebrated the Eucharist.

In Europe, Christians gathered in churches that used to be much fuller and celebrated the Lord’s Supper.

In Africa the sacrament was celebrated in great numbers by a growing number of Christians, many of whom bare scars of persecution as they Commune together.

Those celebrating today include Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Baptists, thousands of other denominations, and even those without denominations.

Christ followers have met both in public and in secret.

Some met in freedom while others gathered under threat of persecution and death.

Some take the sacrament today with organ music, others with simple singing, and still others in quiet so as not to be arrested.

In wealthy churches and in desperate poverty the sacrament is observed. In churches, homes, huts, and in God's creation this seal of the covenant was experienced. The bread is given to people that could overeat all day and to people who had no idea what they would eat or where they would get it today.

The one thing in common-

Point #1 - We all come to the same table of our Lord.

The NLT reads Philippians with

- *2 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ?*
- *Any comfort from his love?*
- *Any fellowship together in the Spirit?*
- *Are your hearts tender and compassionate?*

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

Paul in the text just before this and in the beginning of this one was writing to the Philippians about one thing – division within the church.

Today we should be celebrating that old song

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

The question for us today is – are we? Are we living as one body?

Are we living as Christ lived? Do we exemplify lives of disciples following Jesus.

We have discussed the past couple of weeks the words – Stress, Anxiety and Fear – and those 3 words tend to describe our money. We also discussed our time, our gifts of service – all of which is a gift from God.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

How much of our lives are driven from these words? Ambition, conceit, selfishness, self interests

We have all been there, I've been there – more often than I care to admit to. But if we are living to be a disciple of Christ.

What does it mean to limit our power or privilege for the sake of the greater community?

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness.

We must first be aware of our power and privilege- Jesus was not ignorant of his divinity, but still chose to limit himself, to die on the cross instead of violently resisting.

He is the Christ Jesus – Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Who being God did not consider it as power or privilege! He did not call down the army of heaven – He chose instead “taking the very nature of a servant”.

Verse 8 - he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Point #2 - Humble yourself and empty yourself

Here is something for you to remember.

If you are full of yourself – then there is no room for Jesus.

I want the Lord to use me – maybe he is trying and there is no room. I don't hear the Lord – do you really want to? What happens when we truly humble ourselves before the Father?

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We are all connected in the body of Christ.

Every knee shall bow, EVERY tongue confess – If we stand as individuals we miss the glory that God has for us.

Point #3 - We are one when we confess Jesus Christ is Lord

Luke 2:11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Colossians 3:17 - Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1 Peter 3:15 - but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope

We sing it every Sunday.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

I pray today – the World has declared Jesus Christ is Lord – as we remember how God said "I LOVE YOU!"

God – give us our daily bread.

Our lives, all that we have, all that we are I pray it is yours.