



Philippians 2:1-11 “Gospel Humility”
September 25th, 2016

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Philippians 2:1-11

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. In verse 1, Paul establishes four fundamental realities of being in Christ. Why do you think that Paul did this before telling them what to do, beginning in verse 2?
2. Notice the little word “if” at the beginning of verse 1. What is the significance of the word in this context? Does it signify that Paul is skeptical about the genuineness of the Philippians’s faith? Is there anything in Philippians 1 that helps us answer this question?
3. The main command in verse 2 is “complete my joy”. What does this say about Paul’s heart, leadership, and personal connection to the Philippians that he couches his call to unity in a bigger calling to complete his joy?
4. Verse 2 contains four different phrases describing unity. What are they, and what does Paul have in mind with each one?
5. What is the relationship between v.1-5 and v.6-8? Why does Paul included this thorough description of Jesus’ incarnation in verses 6-8 after his call to unity and humility?
6. After unpacking Christ’s humility in the servanthood of the incarnation and the cross. Paul turns in verses 9-11 to Jesus’ subsequent exaltation. Why do you think he adds this? Is Christ’s exaltation also in some way exemplary for the Philippians, or is it just a necessary completion of Christ’s personal story?

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”
-C.S. Lewis

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ What does a humble person look like? How does C.S. Lewis quote (in the gray box) help us understand humility better?
- ☀ Are you humble? Since humility is almost impossible to see in ourselves, it would be good to ask the people closest to you to questions:
 - ☀ Are there ways that I am overly proud and thinking too highly of myself?
 - ☀ Are there ways that I am overly timid and thinking too lowly of myself?



Philippians 2:1-11

[1] 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. [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.