

The Book of Philippians
“Model of Humility and Spiritual Unity”
7/17/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon Notes

- Last week we spoke about the Formula of Spiritual Unity. What we seen was that each of us receives the same love and encouragement from Christ and he wants us to operate as a unified body of believers.
- He wants us to have the same mind or attitude, the same love, and the same purposed.
- How we reach the level of unity he is looking for is to deny ourselves, and to look to the needs of others over our own needs.
- You cannot have unity when everyone is only focused on themselves and their own interests; selfishness and arrogance will never equal unity.
- This morning we will look at the **Model of Humility and Spiritual Unity** through Christ's example.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became 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 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **V. 5** tells us that our “attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus.” What attitude? Look back to verses 3-4., “³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
- That was Christ's attitude and that is the same one that we should have, because he is our example.
- The word “attitude” here is *phroneō* in the Greek which means: to think or have the mindset of. This is the same word that was used in v. 2 when we were called to be “like-minded.”
- **V. 6** is very important because it lets us know right away that Christ was “in very nature God” which means that he was God and was exactly equal to God.
- What it says as it continues is marvelous as well. He did not consider this equality with God something to be “grasped,” which means he did not consider it something that he had to hold on to, to clutch, to retain.
- This was Christ's attitude toward his position, and what was his position? He was and is God himself.
- The **First Step** towards humility is to have the **proper attitude** about your position and status as something that you do not have to hold on to.
- We are children of God and because of this we have immense privileges and status in his heavenly kingdom.
- However, we cannot allow that status to puff us up and have us to think that we are better than others, we must be willing to forgo those privileges while on earth to serve God and learn to be humble.
- **V. 7** shows us the **Second Step** which is taking the **proper action**.
- We see that Christ “made himself nothing” as he took the very nature of a “servant” which is the Greek word meaning “bond-servant” or “slave.”
- This is profound because what this is saying is that God himself became a “bond-servant,” which is a long way down from where he was at. It goes on to tell us that he was “made in human likeness.”
- He did not cease to be God, the Bible is clear that Jesus remained God the entire time. However, he chose to set aside certain aspects of his divinity while on earth to truly walk in human likeness.
- He got tired, he was hungry, he was thirsty, he felt pain and sorrow, and all the rest of the human emotions.

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- He locked away his attributes of divinity to take on the attributes of man. **This was a temporary choice.**
- If we are going to be humble, not only must we have the proper attitude toward our position and status, but we must be willing to take a step down and actually put that attitude to action as Christ did.
- **V. 8** just takes us a step further as Jesus was found “in appearance as a man” this means that he looked like us and that when people seen him on the street, they would not know that he was anything more than a man.
- You would think that would be the extent that he was willing to stoop, being made in our likeness and our appearance.
- That was only the beginning, it goes on to say that he humbled himself to death, and a step further to say “even death on a cross.”

- **Step three** is that you must be willing to humble yourself in action, **no matter the personal costs.**
- You may want to call is the **High Cost of Low Living**
- It is not to humble yourself with your actions when it is convenient and pleasurable to do so, it means in the times that it is not those things as well.
- Jesus was willing to leave his heavenly glory and to humble himself to come to live as we do on this earth to model how you and I should live every single day.
- Think about all of this, God himself loved us so much that he lowered himself to our level so that we would have a perfect model of how to walk and talk to please him.
- Then he was willing to humble himself to death and at that the worst death that could have possible happen, crucifixion.
- This is the Model of Humility folks and we are supposed to be following it, **are we?**
- Jesus lived and died for you and me without regard to the personal costs that he had to endure. **That’s love.**
- Humility starts with the mind and the attitude, then that is followed by actions.
- If everyone of us was modeling this type of humility, we would be unified in such a marvelous way.
- The barriers to unity are selfishness and pride.
- If we will learn the principle of **The First Shall Be Last and the Last Shall Be First**, we would understand that the only way to really be exalted is to be humble.
- That’s exactly what vv. 9-11 are teaching us in principle. Jesus didn’t lose anything in the end, we regained all of the glory and honor that he chose to set aside and God the Father exalted him back.
- For you and I, as we humble ourselves, God will be faithful to exalt us to a high place with him, however if we are exalted on this earth he will humble us in eternity which is not a good thing.
- Examine yourself this morning and make sure that you are following Christ’s example here.
- Are you willing to humble yourself to a point where you see others as more important that yourself?