



# Brown CG Zoom Lesson

To Be Content: Our Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

September 27, 2020

## I. Starter Question:

Can you think of an example of a person in your life who deserved something or had a right to something that they willingly laid down for the good of someone else?

When you have a legitimate right to something, have you ever had to set that right aside, for someone else's benefit? Was that difficult?

Are there little ways in which you are called upon to do this, (lay aside your legitimate rights), almost daily in your everyday life?

## II. Discussion of Scripture:

**Philippians 2:1-11** *Therefore* if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> (then) **make** my joy complete by being of the same **mind(thinking, gut, heart)**, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one **purpose(mind, thinking)**. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of **mind (thinking)** regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this **attitude**(same word- mind, thinking, gut, heart) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who,

although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Teaching Points and Questions for Discussion:

- a. The section is laid out in two halves, the first (vv. 1-5) is Paul's sincere, heartfelt appeal for his readers to be humble and the second (vv. 5-11) is his example of Christ's humility that we are to imitate.
  - i. Why did Paul seem to need their Christ-like response? How would it affect him?
  - ii. Who has modeled humility well for you in your life?
2. Our call to be humble (vv. 1-5)

- a. Verse 1 gives us four first-class conditions which are assumed to be true. Four times Paul uses the phrase in Greek “*ei tis*” (if any). These are rhetorical, assumed to be true. And based on the obviousness, Paul commands, pleads with them, to help him out in his current situation. Nothing could help him more, than to see his fellow believers living, acting, thinking in humility, as in the “mind, thinking pattern” of Christ, our perfect example, our Savior.
  - b. Does it help you, encourage you, “Make your joy more complete”, when you see other Christians living out, displaying the humility of Christ?
  - c. Can you think of ways that your brothers and sisters in Christ have displayed these four qualities in your life? In our Community Group? In the church?
  - d. His next encouragement builds on vv. 1-2 and that is to consider others to be more significant than yourself (vv. 3-4)
    - i. What would it look like if we treated others as more significant than ourselves?
  - e. Now we are called in verse 5 think like Christ did. The Greek imperative (second one in this passage) Paul uses is *phroneo* (think!)
3. Verse 5 is the verse that connects the two halves together and contains a direct command “to think” or “have this mind”, which is the mind of Christ. In other words, follow His example.
    - i. In what ways did Jesus show humility during His earthly ministry?
    - ii. verses 9-11 – the exaltation of Christ
      1. Therefore (because of everything just stated) God exalted Jesus and gave Him a name above every other name. All will bow at that name. All will confess at that name. The name of Jesus!
        - i. This was predicted in Isaiah’s prophecy in Is. 45:23 predicts that in the future every knee will bow and every tongue will confess to Yahweh

### **III. Responding in Prayer:** in light of this passage and our current times

Pray for yourself that God would help you see where you are not humble and not living, thinking like Jesus.

Thank God for our CG and how Christ is working in our hearts, minds.

Pray for our govt. leaders as it says in I Tim. 2:2, that we should pray “for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

Pray for our elders, pastors and staff that they would all devote themselves to lead in Christ-like humility, to learn that more deeply from Him each day and to model that more purely to the body of Christ.

And pray that our example and their example would point others to Jesus and His sacrifice.