

## Imitating Jesus' Humility

*Philippians 2:1-11*

If Faith is going to be the kind of church that represents Jesus well in our community and helps build each other up in Christ, humility will be a vital virtue. We simply will not be able to love well and encourage well if this isn't a core attribute of our individual and corporate character. In our passage today, Paul points to Jesus' humility as the example that we are to imitate and express towards each other. May our study help us better understand and fall in love with Jesus' humility in a way that helps us do this.

## Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. How are the believers at Philippi to relate to each other (vv. 1-4)?
2. What role does Paul say humility plays in maintaining healthy relationships (vv. 3-4)?
3. Why is humility so foundational to unity in the body of Christ?
4. In verse 5, Paul says, "Have this attitude (i.e. humility) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." Does it strike you as strange to say that Jesus was humble? Why or why not?
5. How does Paul say Jesus expressed his humility (vv. 6-7)?

6. What was the reward of humility in Jesus' life (vv. 9-11)?

Steve said:

The most practical thing that you and I can do to cultivate humility is to fix our eyes on Jesus, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising its shame. Unless we are smitten with the humble love of Jesus Christ, we'll never catch a vision for cultivating humility in our lives. Humility will seem unreasonable and impossible and maybe even irresponsible at times. "God can't expect me to be humble toward *that* person. . . because that person deserves my condemnation, not my compassion." But all of our arguments melt away when we truly understand the humility of Jesus *for us*. Carl Henry asked, "How can anyone be arrogant when he stands beside the cross?" One of the most practical things we can do to cultivate humility is to dwell on the cross of Christ.

7. What are some practical ways we can fix our eyes of Jesus in order to develop humility in our lives?

Steve said:

Let me encourage you to "test drive" humility of mind in two ways this week. First, adopt humility of mind toward one specific person. Identify one person, probably someone you see about every day - someone in your home, a friend, a co-worker. Make it your ambition in specific, everyday circumstances, to ask, "In this specific circumstance, what are his/her personal interests? What are their deepest needs in this situation?" Answering those questions will require discernment and wisdom. Experience how difficult it is to imitate Christ and His humility; allow yourself to become desperate for His grace and power. Second, test drive humility of mind in one specific context (your neighborhood, in your family, on a ministry team, or in your workplace). Seek to demonstrate genuine, radical, Christlike humility in one context. Again, experience how much discernment and wisdom it takes to even know what humility of mind means for your team or family or coworkers. What does humility look like when you have a conflict? When you legitimately disagree on what is good and right? When you've been wronged? Notice what is stirred up inside you when you try to be humble - self-righteousness, anger, bitterness, etc. Cry out to God for the desire and the ability to live as a humble person.

8. Write down the one person and the one specific context where you will seek to demonstrate Christlike humility this week.