

NL STUDY GUIDE

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Part 3: Humility
Pastor Troy Jones
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PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11(NIV)

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.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11(NIV)

Watch this week's message online: nlchurch.com/watch.

OBSERVATION

In Philippians chapter 2 we find one of the greatest theological and Christological reflections in all of the New Testament, a beautiful hymn/poem dedicated to the nature of Christ. In opposition to the selfish ambition and vain conceit of the world around him, Paul calls for the Philippians to mirror the attitude of Christ, one that did not even consider equality with God something to be clung to or taken advantage of. Rather, Jesus became the ultimate example of humility and servanthood, taking his service all the way to the cross.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the ancient world, power and strength were ultimate goals of life. Paul's celebration of Jesus' servanthood was often scandalous and defied common values and pursuits of the age. Throughout Philippians, Paul uses examples to show the Philippians what Kingdom citizenship looks like, including the example of their Servant King.

- 1 In verses 1 and 2, Paul lists a number of conditions to consider when he appeals to make his joy complete. What are they?
- 2 How does Paul want his readers to respond to these conditions? How does he define being "like-minded?"
- 3 How does Paul describe living in humility in verses 3 and 4?

APPLICATION

When you apply something, you put it into practice. It's one thing to read the Bible, it's another thing to live it out. A practical application of what you just observed from today's study can help you discover just how much impact the Bible can have on every situation you may face!

In this section, discuss together ways you can apply what you've learned from the teaching and the Bible study. Then, think about some practical ways you can live out what you've learned.

- 1 Paul places his appeal to the Philippians in the context of everything that God has done for them. Remembering God's goodness in our lives and reflecting on His will for us is an important part of Christianity. How can we consistently remember His blessing in our lives? How should we respond?
- 2 Our society is driven by selfishness and conceit, and yet Paul calls upon us to openly defy these values. In a self-centered world, being Christ-centered is an act of rebellion. How can we demonstrate our service to others? What does humility look like in everyday life?
- 3 Paul says that our attitude should be like Jesus, who was humble to the point of not demanding his rights as God and actually went to the cross for us. What rights do we often cling to? How would an attitude of humility affect our witness?

PRAYER

Use the space below to write out your prayer in response to today's message.
