

Christ Models Humility for Us -4 - Philippians 2:1-13 (NRSV)

Before you begin, please pause for prayer, silent or verbalized, asking God to guide your reflection and that of the group for the following study...

Directions:

- 1. Ask one person to read the following text slowly as the rest follow along.***
- 2. In a couple of minutes of silent reflecting, each participant should be listening for what the Holy Spirit might be saying to them, is there a phrase, a verse, a question, or an idea that is striking you as interesting or important? Underline it.***
- 3. Ask another person to read the passage again and repeat step 2.***
- 4. Then begin the discussion with the questions below...***

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be 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 regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Shining as Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Probing Questions for the Text:

1. As you read the text, what thoughts, words or phrases did the Holy Spirit bring to your mind?
2. What elements of Christ's life does Paul set as our example (vss. 6-11)? (Over>>>>)

3. Because the Church is Christ's Church made up of Christ's followers, Paul is advising the leaders of the Church in Philippi on how they should conduct themselves and lead the church. What do you think are some of the key phrases he uses to describe this?

4. Try to imagine what might change in the session if we conducted our business and discussions in this way? Or perhaps we already do?

5. Take a few moments of silent reflection... How might the advice in this chapter speak to you in any relationships or situations in your life - in your family, or in your friendships?

6. What is one thought you think God may be prompting you to take away from this discussion