

RELATED SCRIPTURES

John 15:13 | 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 | Romans 8:17–18

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 9.29.24

SUMMARY

If the church were to distill the tenets of the Christian religion down to a single word, *humility* might best fit it. In the second chapter of Philippians, Paul begins to charge the church to treat, love, and encourage one another. He tells them to center their minds on Jesus Christ—that their minds would be like his (v. 5). Paul then quotes what many Bible scholars believe is an early church hymn that details Christ’s glory, his condescension, and his return to glory again. The hymn leaves no room for pride and, in Christ, showcases the greatest act of humility the world has ever known. Whatever rights we believe we have—whatever we feel the world owes us—they cannot surpass the honor due to Christ, who before his incarnation “was in the form of God” (v. 6). And though he was in the form of God, by his own good pleasure, he set his divine place and privilege aside to take on the form of a servant (v. 7). Yet, he descended further still to die a sinner’s death on the cross. There has never been a greater disparity between what was owed to someone (eternal glory) and what was given (judgment unto death). His reason for doing this was simply for the sake of his friends—that by his death, we would have life (John 15:13; Romans 5:8). Because Jesus—the second Adam—did the will of his Heavenly Father perfectly—unlike the first Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45–49), Christ is glorified. In his glory, Jesus occupies the highest place. The Father gave him the “name that is above every name” (v. 9). Paul’s words serve as both a command—to imitate Christ in his humility—and encouragement; those who are in Christ will share in the glory of Christ (Romans 8:17–18).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Philippians 2:1–11.

What are some practical ways we can practice humility? In what areas of your life are you challenged to be more of a servant and less of someone who expects to be given what they deserve?

How can a spirit of humility generate a spirit of unity in the church? Is this principle applicable outside the church? Can you name specific examples for both?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.