

YIELD

Philippians 2

Humbly place the needs of others before your own.

Humility--a word commonly used, but perhaps not clearly understood.

When we are in the wrong, and are confronted, we may be asked to eat a slice of “humble pie”.

Matthew 5: 5 says that the “meek” will inherit the earth. To many in the world, humility carries the idea of being a doormat to be trodden on, or someone totally passive.

Paul in writing the book of Philippians declares a picture of humility that is quite different. He encourages us to look to Jesus as the example of what humility is--to willingly place the needs of others before our own.

The book of Philippians was probably written by Paul when he was in Rome, under house arrest. Remember that this situation was described at the end of the book of Acts. See Acts 28: 30-31. Philippians is one of the most encouraging books in the bible.

Be willingly humble

Have the mind of Christ

The secret of humility

Be willingly humble Philippians 2: 1-4

Vs 1-2. In these verses, Paul encourages the church to be unified in fellowship, love and purpose--to reach the lost around them.

This same attitude was present in the early church. Recall Acts 2: 42-47. And the idea of “all things common” was what Paul desired for the Philippian church. Even though the congregation probably consisted of various ethnic, social, economic groups, the ground around the cross of Christ was to be level.

Vs 3 Paul asks that they get rid of selfishness and submit to one another in humility. This is against our nature as humans, can only be done as we submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Vs 4 Notice in this verse that Paul does not tell us to abandon our own needs and interests, but balance those with the needs of others. The verse known as the Golden Rule doesn't say we should hate ourselves. But we should “love our neighbors as we love ourselves”

Have the mind of Christ Philippians 2: 5-8

Vs 5-6. Paul encouraged the church to copy the attitude displayed by Jesus. He was 100% man, 100% God, and did not ever deny it. He was totally comfortable being God in the flesh. But He never tried to use His deity to gain fame or popularity. Recall the second temptation of Jesus. See Matt. 4: 5-7.

Vs 7-8. Jesus willingly took the role of a servant instead of being served. He limited himself to becoming human. He further submitted to a cruel death on a Roman cross as the perfect sacrifice. He was indeed the suffering servant described in Isaiah 53. See Isaiah 53: 1-6.

What do these verses mean to us as Christians? Just as Christ never backed away from who He was, as believers we should not be ashamed about being a Christian. But just as Christ willingly offered up His life to follow God's will, we are to do the same.

Not part of today's "printed" lesson, but God's reward is given in Philippians 2: 9-11. A similar passage is given in Isaiah 53: 10-12.

The secret of humility Philippians 2: 13-15.

But let's first examine verse 12. Paul encouraged the church to "work out your salvation". He's not saying we are saved by works, but he is also saying that as believers, we are to continue to mature as Christians until the day we reach Glory.

Vs 13 the key to living and serving with humility: The leadership of God the Holy Spirit, as we submit to His leadership. Many of the attributes described in Galatians 5 (fruits of the Spirit) allow us to be humble.

Vs 14-15. In vs 14, Paul tells the Philippian church to cut out grumbling, complaining, arguing. It's not easy to do: recall that not long after Israel watched God destroy the Egyptian army by causing the Red Sea to fall back and drown all of them, Israel grumbled and complained to Moses that they were thirsty, and had no water to drink. See Exodus 15: 22-24.

Vs 15 in this verse, Paul is encouraging the church to continue the process of sanctification, becoming more and more like Jesus. Thus, they will be points of light against the darkness of the world around them. A similar thought was expressed by Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 14-16.

That's all for today. Perhaps in a few weeks we can once again meet face to face for Bible Study. Until then, be safe and well.

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