



🕒 UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will be having a fun night out as CCC goes to the Ballgame. Join us on May 8th as the St. Louis Cardinals faces off against the San Diego Padres. Tickets are 43 dollars.
- The Rainforest Vacation Bible School will be from June 7-June 11.

🕒 THIS WEEK

- **Pastor Walt is continuing our sermon series on Philippians. Let's now dive into our study of Philippians 2:1-11.**

📖 STUDY the text

- 📖 **Let's begin by reading Ephesians 4:1-6 and Philippians 2:1-4.**

Ephesians 4:1-6 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Philippians 2:1-4 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being 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 count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

📖 Sermon Question 1

How can we maintain unity as believers when we come from diverse backgrounds and differ on doctrine? What enables us to remain unified despite these differences? What would it look like in practice to put one another first? Can you think of a situation where you have seen this lived out?



Now let's continue by reading **Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 4:15-16 and Hebrews 5:7-9.**

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-9 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

☰ Sermon Question 2:

What was the mindset of Jesus in coming to earth? What does it mean that He “emptied Himself”? How does this connect to the call to consider others as more significant than ourselves? Beyond saving people through His death, what other purposes did His life and suffering serve?

Finally let's read **Isaiah 45:22-23, Daniel 7:13-14 and Philippians 2:8-11**

Isaiah 45:22-23 "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. 23 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Philippians 2:8-11 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.





 **Sermon Question 3:**

How does the obedience and humiliation Jesus endured display a different and greater kind of power and beauty than what was required to create the world? In what ways do we reflect a greater power at work within us when we endure suffering in our service to God?

 **LIVE the truth**

How have you done in putting others first? Some people are easier to love—how do you respond to those who are more difficult to love? If not well, determine to make a change.

 **PRAYER Points**

-  Are there any in the group who are struggling to love and put others first? If so, have those in the group pray for the ones struggling.
-  Let's again lift up the war with Iran as things appear to be heating up instead of moving towards a resolution. Pray that God would draw hearts to himself as people struggle through this crisis.

 **BIBLE Commentary for Philippians 2:1–11**

Paul now moves from calling believers to live worthy of the gospel (1:27–30) to showing **what that life actually looks like in practice**. The focus shifts from endurance in suffering to the attitudes and relationships within the body of Christ. At the center of this section is not merely a command, but an example—Christ Himself. What Paul calls believers to in verses 1–4, he grounds completely in the person and work of Jesus in verses 5–11.

1. Unity Rooted in Shared Spiritual Reality (2:1–2)

Paul begins by pointing to what believers already possess: encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit, and shared affection. These are not hypothetical ideas—they are realities that define the Christian life.

Because these things are true, unity is not something believers create from nothing. It is something they are called to **live out consistently**. Paul's appeal is simple yet demanding: be of the same mind, have the same love, and be in full accord.



This does not mean uniformity in every opinion or background. Instead, it points to a deeper unity—one shaped by shared devotion to Christ. When Christ is central, differences become secondary. Unity is maintained not by eliminating distinctions, but by aligning around what matters most.

2. The Threat of Selfish Ambition (2:3–4)

Paul then identifies the primary danger to unity: selfish ambition and conceit. Division does not begin externally; it begins internally, with a focus on self.

The solution is not simply to avoid pride, but to actively pursue humility. Believers are called to “count others more significant than yourselves” and to look not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others.

This is not natural. It runs against instinct. Yet it is essential for genuine unity. A community shaped by self-interest will fracture, but one shaped by humility will hold together.

To put others first in practice means more than polite behavior. It involves a reorientation of priorities—valuing others, serving them, and seeking their good even when it is inconvenient or unnoticed.

3. The Mindset of Christ (2:5)

Paul now makes the connection explicit: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

This is the turning point of the passage. The call to humility is not based on abstract principles. It is grounded in Christ’s own mindset.

Believers are not merely told what to do—they are shown **how Christ thought, acted, and lived**. The same attitude that defined Him is now to define His people.

4. Christ’s Humility: From Glory to Servanthood (2:6–7)

Paul begins with Christ’s position: He existed “in the form of God.” This establishes His full equality with God. Yet instead of clinging to that position, He chose a different path.



He “emptied Himself,” not by losing His divinity, but by taking on humanity and the role of a servant. This is not subtraction, but addition. He adds human nature and willingly steps into limitation, weakness, and dependence.

This reveals something profound about the nature of true greatness. Power, in the world’s terms, is often displayed through control and elevation. But in Christ, power is displayed through **self-giving and humility**.

His coming to earth was not merely a step down—it was a complete identification with those He came to save. He entered into human experience fully, experiencing its limitations and struggles.

5. Obedience Through Suffering (2:8)

Christ’s humility did not stop at becoming human. It extended all the way to obedience “to the point of death—even death on a cross.”

This is the lowest point in the passage. Crucifixion was not only painful; it was shameful. It represented rejection, humiliation, and curse.

Yet Christ’s obedience was complete. He did not turn aside when faced with suffering. He submitted fully to the will of the Father.

This shows that His life had purpose beyond the cross itself. His suffering demonstrated perfect obedience, revealed the depth of His love, and provided a model of endurance. He did not simply accomplish salvation—He showed what faithful submission looks like under pressure.

6. Exaltation and the Reversal of Glory (2:9–11)

Because of this obedience, God “highly exalted Him.” The downward movement of humility is now met with an upward movement of exaltation.

Christ is given “the name that is above every name,” and the result is universal recognition. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is not limited or partial. It includes heaven, earth, and under the earth. All creation will ultimately acknowledge His authority.

What is striking is the path that leads to this exaltation. It does not come through self-promotion or force, but through humility and obedience. The greatest glory is reached through the lowest descent.



This redefines how power and greatness are understood. Creation itself displays God's power, but the cross displays something deeper—His character. In Christ's obedience and suffering, we see not only strength, but love, justice, and mercy working together.

7. Key Themes

Unity → Flows from Shared Life in Christ

Believers are already connected through Christ and the Spirit. Unity is the outworking of that reality.

Humility → Preserves Relationships

Selfish ambition divides, but humility brings stability and strength to the body.

Christ → The Model for Living

The call to humility is grounded in Christ's own example, not merely moral instruction.

Incarnation → Reveals True Greatness

Christ's willingness to step down shows that greatness is found in serving, not elevating self.

Obedience → Demonstrated Through Suffering

Faithfulness is most clearly seen when it is costly.

Exaltation → Follows Humility

God honors what the world often overlooks. The path down becomes the path up.

Concluding Thought

Philippians 2:1–11 reveals the heart of the Christian life. Unity is not maintained by effort alone, but by humility. And humility is not sustained by willpower, but by looking to Christ.

He did not cling to His position, but gave Himself. He did not avoid suffering, but entered into it fully. And because of that, He is now exalted above all.

This becomes the pattern for believers. As they put others first, endure difficulty, and walk in humility, they reflect a power that does not come from themselves. It is the life of Christ being lived out through them.

What begins as a call to unity ultimately becomes a call to transformation—one that reshapes how believers think, live, and relate to one another.