

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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Philippians 2:1-11

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. ⁵ 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. ⁹ 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.

—Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV)

v 1 – So if there is any encouragement...

Rhetorical questions, which by their nature reveal the aspirations for Christian fellowship:

Encouragement in Christ

Comfort from love

Participation in the Spirit

Affection and sympathy

vv 2-4 – “fulfil my joy **so that** [*hina*]...”

Paul is probably pointing to what he is about to say beginning in v 5. What follows immediately are *results* that occur from following that teaching.

You may be of the same mind

Having the same love

United in soul (of one accord)

Doing nothing according to self interest or vain conceit [*vainglory*]

But in humility esteeming one another as surpassing themselves

Everyone considering not [only] the things of themselves but everyone also considering the things of others

v 5-8 – “[Let] This mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...”

This is the first command (imperative) in the passage

This is what will fulfil Paul’s joy and will result in true Christian living—and will result in the qualities above.

“who, existing in the form of God...”

Was ongoing from all eternity

“did not consider to be equal with God something to be grasped [*intractably*]”

This was the decision of Christ on our behalf

“but emptied Himself, having taken the form of a servant...”

Christ “emptied Himself”—It was His action and decision.

It almost goes without saying that we cannot begin to understand what was necessary for the eternal Son of God to “become flesh.”

“having been made in the likeness of men...”

The mystery of the Incarnation

“and in appearance, having been found as a man...”

The Son of Man, fully God and fully man

Lived, breathed, worked, ate, bled... and was even “in every respect ... tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

“He humbled Himself...”

Still the actions of Christ Himself

Humbled—to place the needs of others above one’s own rights and interests

“having become obedient unto death—even death on a cross...”

Christ, in His suffering, submitted to the will of the Father

This is beyond us fully to understand

(The mind that would do these things, this is the mind of Christ, which we are to have within ourselves)

v 9 – “Therefore God has highly exalted Him...”

God the Father raised the Son from the grave and exalted Him

“and bestowed on him the name that is above every name”

Then, and now, and forever

vv 10-11 – “so that at the name of Jesus...”

Not just His spoken name—although that, too!

The “name” of Jesus is His office, His authority, His Lordship—which is, forever, over all of creation...

every knee...every tongue.