

Living a Life of Joy

#3 Philippians 2:1-11

Be Like Christ

Joyful Humility of Obedience to Christ

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Pastor Kevin Block

Turn in your Bible to Philippians 2:1-11 Follow along as I read...

- 1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection & 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 rivalry 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 made himself nothing, 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.

In the last three weeks we have learned three important truths from Philippians 1...

1. A defining quality of being a Christ follower is--JOY. 1-11
2. A determining factor to experience joy is whether or not you have a single passion--to magnify Christ in all things. 12-20
3. Christ followers magnify Christ--by valuing Him supremely, submitting to Him & teaming to help people glory in Him. 21f

This morning we will see from Philippians 2:1-11 that living to magnify Christ means that we must...

- Humbly receive grace from Christ 2:1
- Humbly relate to others for Christ 2:2-5
- Humbly submit to & obey Christ 2:5-11

Selfishness is natural: We all would agree we don't need much of an excuse to be selfish; it comes pretty easily.

We live in a consumer culture-driven by 'me': What about me & my needs? How does this affect me?

We are trained to think this way because that's the way our culture operates—"What's in it for me?"

We also live in this body of flesh, in which the power of sin still resides, which daily tempts us to live for 'self.'

We are tempted to be self-consumed, self-glorying, self-relying, self-centered—independent (even from God).

BUT Selfishness is a JOY-Killer!

Paul's Testimony: What defines my life now is NOT looking out for #1...NOT making much of me...

BUT by God's grace...by a work of God's Spirit (new birth)...I now have 1 Passion: to magnify Jesus Christ!

I would rather die so I could be face to face with Jesus than continue to live.

I would rather die so I could be face to face with Jesus than live a fruitful, beneficial life serving others..

BUT I would rather live—IF that is what Jesus wants...because He has freed me to supremely want His will.

What does Jesus want? To live in such a way that people see I truly treasure/value Jesus Christ—I prize Him.

To live as teammates with Christ followers—loving/serving people in Jesus' name.

What is our VISSION/MISSION as a church: *to treasure Christ & love people for God's pleasure & our joy by inviting and equipping people to become devoted disciple-makers of Jesus Christ.*

What does it mean to treasure Christ? What does it mean to love people?

What does it mean to invite people to come to Christ...to equip them to be devoted disciple-makers of Christ?

It means to be... so enraptured by Jesus' glory, greatness, grace & our union with Him that we willingly, joyfully and sacrificially do whatever it takes to live in unity, as teammates to point people to Christ!

It means to be...so secure in God's love for us in Christ & transformed by His love that our greatest joy is to be a empty vessel that God pours Himself into & an available channel for Him to live through for others.

It means to be...so freed from shame & fear that instead of cowering in God's presence...we delight in being in His presence and ...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who was put in a Nazi POW camp and ultimately executed there.

He once stated, "When God bids a man, He bids him come and die."

LIVE TO MAGNIFY CHRIST BY...

1. Humbly receiving grace from Christ

2:1

So... Live to magnify Christ...live worthy of the Gospel of Christ...live as teammates to point people to Christ

If... 'If' clause: "if this is true & we know it is", "since"

If there is any encouragement in Christ—we know there is; If there is any comfort from love—there is
 If any participation in the Spirit—we know there is If any affection & sympathy—there is
Any Encouragement in Christ = ‘come alongside’ Jesus has come alongside you; He lives IN you.
Any Comfort from love = experience Jesus’ love: *not God making much of me, BUT*
God enabling me to want to make much of Jesus—freed from inward to outward gazing at Jesus.
Participation in the Spirit = we are each indwelt by same Holy Spirit; you know the person of the Spirit
Any Affection & Sympathy = inward feelings & outward feelings from Spirit a sense of belonging!

**Grace is received from vertical (Christ) & horizontal (Spiritual friendships) relationships*

LIVE TO MAGNIFY CHRIST BY...

2. Humbly relating to others for Christ.... Complete my Joy

Since 4 previous statements in verse 1 are true...NOW do TWO things: complete my joy, have Jesus’ attitude
Why does Paul ask them to ‘complete’ his joy? Seems selfish, self-centered NOT loving or other-focused
Because Paul’s joy is wrapped up in (intrinsically includes) them. When they are joyful in Jesus—he is joyful.

*Paul’s life is again a testimony (1:20-26; 27-30), an example of what he exhorts them to BE and to DO.
 *I am so connected with you... my joy is dependent on you experiencing Jesus’ joy as you live as a team!

A. **What? (Vs. 2)** *Live as a unified team...mutually enjoying Jesus’ love...harmoniously reaching out to others.*

1. **Have same mind:** think the same thing; agree with one another What can we agree on? Jesus is supreme
 *1 Cor. 2:16 Submit to Jesus’ mind in you by learning, delighting & submitting to Jesus’ mind!
 *We have ONE head: Jesus Christ! We have ONE owner/coach/quarterback: Jesus Christ!
2. **Have same love:** relish in God’s agape love for all of us—enables us to see & savor Jesus Christ
 *2 Cor. 5:14-15 Christ’s love for you...unites you together as Christ followers!
 *Jesus doesn’t love me any more or any less than He loves you. His love for each of us is the same!
 *Jesus’ love for you is NOT to make much of you, but to enable you to make much of Jesus, with others
3. **Have same purpose—full accord/1 mind:** 1 passion: magnify Christ...live worthy of Gospel...1 team
 *John 17:24 Behold Jesus more clearly/fully in all His glory
 *Grand Canyon: observation deck that juts out over the canyon: floor is not mirrors but clear glass.

B. **How? (Vs. 3-4)** *Trust Jesus who lives in you by His Spirit to daily fill you up so you can give not take. These words are absolutely life-changing if we really understand and PRACTICE what Paul is saying.*

- 3 1. **Do nothing from rivalry or conceit:** don’t compete...don’t compare...
 Rivalry (1:17): to canvass for a vote—seeking to convince people we are special & deserve their praise
 Stacking the deck...Putting forth your strengths against other people’s weaknesses!
 Conceit: trying to win people’s acceptance, approval, & applause Reminding people it’s all about me.
 Tooting their own horn—look at me! Singing their own song! Not considering others at all!
 *When I live from a position of rivalry or conceit-I am not magnifying Christ but seeking to magnify self.
 I am not living according to the worth/value of the Gospel but according to my own value/worth.
 I am not seeking to live as a unified team with other believers pointing people to Jesus but I am
 stepping on other believers so I can make sure that people see me and want to make much of me.
 *Because of sin...we are all born with this desire to be someone...to be liked/loved by someone...
 Yet when we seek to push our way to the top...we find ourselves all alone...
 *If this is where you find yourself this morning... Jesus wants to meet you...not to make much of you
 But to show you how great He is...good He is...gracious He wants to be to you—to forgive you!
- 3 2. **Do everything from humility—counting others more significant than yourself:**
 Humility is... living in relationship to God & people as God intended—His Image-bearers!
 Clean vessel to experience God & available channel through whom God can show Jesus to others.
 Humility is the foundational grace in which all of God’s other graces find their root and grow from.
 Humility was not a virtue in 1st Century; Greeks saw humility as weakness...valued: selfish ambition
 It was a virtue to market ‘self’...just like today...even in Christianity...a lot of self-promoting.
 Humility is NOT... thinking poorly of ourselves. Is NOT... thinking we are nothing or unimportant.
 Humility is NOT thinking about ourselves because we are consumed by Jesus Christ.
 In a consumer culture, every day all day, we think about ourselves. We are consumed with ourselves.
 We think about how people treat us, how people talk to us, what about this and what about that.

Humility of Humanity... HUMILITY by Andrew Murray... 'Humility: is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all graces & virtues, because it alone assumes the right attitude before God and allows God as God to be and do all. Humility is not something which we bring to God. It is simply the sense of entire nothingness, which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we joyfully make way for God to be all in our life. All our issues/struggles are rooted in being disconnected from God... displaced from Him=sin.

God created mankind to be image-bearers of His glory! To be clean vessels that receive/experience Him
To be available channels of HIM to others.

Pride: fill my life with self not Christ and use people for my benefit not be God's channel of God to them.

Humility counts others more significant than yourself BY...

1. See people through Jesus' eyes: Special creation, Deeply loved
2. Compare their strengths with your weaknesses NOT your strengths to their weaknesses!
3. Choose to give preference to others (Rom. 12:10)

Verse 4 balances verse 3. Verse 3 implies possibly that we should only be concerned for others...

- 4 3. **Don't look out ONLY for #1:** It is OK to have self-interest—to be healthy—to pursue Jesus' glory
*I can't help others live to magnify Jesus Christ...if I am not doing that myself
**Airline instructions for passengers if oxygen masks are deployed...put yours on first then others*
- 4 4. **Do look out ALSO for others:** Think of others...ask Jesus to fill your heart with commitment to others
*If you truly live to magnify Christ...He WILL move you to live to help others see Him also.
**Ask yourself: What affect is my life having on others?*

LIVE TO MAGNIFY CHRIST BY...

3. Humbly (& joyfully) obeying Christ: Have Jesus' Attitude: think like Jesus (Vs. 5-11)

WHAT is Jesus' Attitude/Perspective? JOYFUL HUMILITY OF HIS OBEYING GOD THE FATHER

Think like Jesus did...See life as Jesus did...Interpret life as Jesus did...Respond to life as Jesus did...

- WHY?**
1. *Because God gave Jesus to be His EXAMPLE of how to live--you have missed because of sin.*
 2. *Because God has determined that you experience Him through joyful humble obedience to Christ.*
 3. *Because God promises to exalt those who do joyfully and humbly obey Him.*

A. JESUS DIDN'T SELFISHLY DEMAND HIS RIGHTS AS GOD (Vs. 6)

6 *though He was in the form of God*

Before Jesus was born as a baby @ Bethlehem, He eternally existed as God the Son.

'form of God'=not body for God is Spirit: outward environment to be appropriate for the inward essence.

Jesus, the eternal God the Son, existed in an environment appropriate for who He truly is...namely God.

1. Creation: Universe is vast, colorful, seemingly infinite...Ocean floor: deep, beautiful, never to be seen
WHY? Because God is infinitely great, glorious, beautiful...He likes it! His 'surrounding' is fitting.
2. God's 'unveiling': Moses=cleft in rock, Isaiah=I am unraveled, John=falls as a dead man
WHY? Because God is infinitely glorious, great, awe-inspiring in who He is, pure, holy...

*Did not count equality with God...Jesus: equal God=is God: **Jn. 1:1; Stones: 5:18;8:58;10:30; Mk.14:62** a thing to be grasped...'*exploited for one's own benefit...selfishly held on' *Jesus didn't demand His 'right'

Know who you are in Christ

B. JESUS' HUMBLY OBEYED GOD THE FATHER (Vs. 7-8)

7 *But made Himself nothing...* (emptied Himself=kenosis)

Kenosis: Did Jesus stop being God? NO Did He experience temptation? Yes Could He have sinned? NO
Jesus voluntarily laid aside His privileged environment & the independent use of His divine attributes!

Taking the form of a servant...bond-slave...

Jesus chose to come as a slave not a KING! WHY? Why born in a lowly stable, through 'nobody' teenagers?
Answer: My sin! Your sin! Mankind's sin could only be justly dealt with through the death of a Redeemer!

Lk. 1:46-55 Mary: Messiah is GREAT **1:67-79 Zechariah:** Messiah is Redeemer, Savior...forgive sins!

Being born in the likeness of men... huge transition from eternal, glorious, infinite Deity...to limited humanity
Likeness=man as God intended-no sin nature (Gen. 1:27 Image-bearer) **Rom. 8:3** likeness of sinful flesh
Jesus was clothed with humanity that cloaked His eternal glory & he chose to experience human weakness.

8 **Being found in human form...** But this isn't all...It is not just that Jesus took on full humanity...He also...

He humbled Himself by becoming obedient...

Was the first time Jesus experienced humility or obedience (to listen under...take orders)? Not really... Jesus as God the Son has eternally related to God the Father with a sense of 'humble obedience' as 'Son.' This is not saying God the Son was inferior to God the Father for that has never been true. But there is a sense in which as being one and equal with God the Father in being, the Son has always been in a relational role of joyful, humble, glorious obedience to God the Father.

to the point of death...

Jesus' humility as the Son of Man was His willingness to obey God the Father to the point of death. *Jesus' prayer in the Garden: **Matt. 26:36-56** Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested for it was God's will!

even death on a Cross...

Jesus joyfully, humbly obeyed God the Father to the point of yielding Himself to be crucified on a Cross. *Cross is the apex, finest & most glorious display of God's grace, glory, awesome holiness, infinite love. *Cross: worst of the worst...no lower point than to be nailed to a cross. It was the bottom. Horrifying! Often it took two or three days. Sometimes people died of asphyxiation. Sometimes people bled to death. Sometimes wild animals would jump up & begin to tear them off the cross. Let animals eat bodies. Jesus went from eternal, infinite glory TO unbearable suffering, humiliation, & abandonment from God. WHY? **Matt. 20:28** 'I came not to be served, but to serve and to give My life as a ransom for many.' WHY? **Phil. 2:9-11** God the Father's Exaltation of His glorious, joyfully obedient Son.

Daily chose to joyfully & humbly obey Christ:

C. JESUS JOYFULLY RECEIVED FATHER'S EXALTATION & WAS CHANNEL OF SALVATION

"Therefore God has highly exalted him." Why has God highly exalted Jesus? Because,

- *Jesus joyfully, humbly & completely obeyed the Father in all things.
- *Jesus esteemed the Father so greatly He chose to die the worst of deaths rather than rebel against His will.
- *The Father loves to exalt the humble.

Isaiah 57:15 "Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

'I dwell in a high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit'"

*Jesus taught the law of heaven on earth when He said in **Matthew 23:11**:

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted"

- *It is right: He who humbled himself most deeply whose obedience cost the most should be the most exalted.
- *Hudson Taylor said, after a lifetime of toil and suffering in China, "I never made a sacrifice"?

"Therefore God... bestowed on him a name which is above every name."

What name did Jesus receive after his resurrection that he did not have before? LORD & MESSIAH

Acts 2:36 "...God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

1 John 3:8, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

Hebrews 2:14-15, "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage."

Col. 2:15 'He disarmed the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame by triumphing over them in J.'

Lord—is the victorious name over enemies; who has purchased a people from every tribe, tongue, nation.

Lord—is the victorious name that every knee will bow before & confess: Jesus is Lord!

Believers, to their everlasting joy. Unbelievers, to their everlasting shame.

One day every knee will bow & every tongue confess. There are no exceptions. Everyone say: Jesus is Lord. Do you know today there are millions who have not heard of Jesus? Will not hear unless someone goes?

Daily Defer Exaltation/Recognition—Invest for Eternity

Live to magnify Christ by...

1. **Humbly receiving grace from Christ**

The Humility of Humanity

2. **Humbly relating to others for Christ**

The Synergism of Team

3. **Humbly (& joyfully) obeying Christ**

The Exaltation of Humble Obedience

2 Choose to humbly obey the Spirit

2:1

*Vessel to (be) hold God *Channel to give God

2:2-5

*God's Math: Community: 1 + 1 = 3 Serving others: 1 - 1 = 2

2:5-11

1 Know who you are in Christ

3 Endure the 'now' by seeing the future

Living a Life of Joy: Joyful Humility of Obedience to Christ #3 Phil. 2:1-11 April 27, 2008

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Ph 2:1-11 living to magnify Christ 1 H receive grace 2 H relate to others 3 H submit/obey

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BUT by God's grace...by a work of God's Spirit (new birth)...I have 1 Passion: magnify JC

I rather die-be w/J than live... I rather die-be w/J than fruitful life BUT I rather live if J wants

What VISION/MISSION as church: to treasure Christ & love people for God's pleasure & our joy by inviting & equipping people to become devoted disciple-makers of Christ **Look like**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer G pastor exec by Nazi, 'When God bids a man, He bids him come & die.'

LIVE TO M.C. BY... 1. Humbly receiving grace from Christ 2:1

So/therefore... Live magnify JC...worthy...team If... 'if this is true & we know it is=since

Enc in C=come alongside J w/&in you Any Comfort from love =exp J' love: *not God making*

Partic in S=indwelt by same Spirit; you know Him Any Aff/Symp=inward & outward feel

*Grace is received from vertical (Christ) & horizontal (Spiritual friendships) relationships

LIVE TO M.C. BY... 2. Humbly relating to others for Christ... Complete my Joy 2:2-4

Why Paul 'complete my joy? Paul's joy wrapped up in them. We are connected! I need you

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Clean vessel =hold God Available channel =give God H=foundational grace not + 1st Cen

Humility of Humanity... **Pride**: fill my life w/self not Christ & use people not serve as chan

counts others 1. See the J' eyes: 2. Compare their strengths with your weaknesses NOT...

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LIVE TO M.C. BY... 3. Humbly (& joyfully) obeying Christ: Have Jesus' Attitude 2:5-11

Jesus' Attitude? **J OYFUL HUMILITY OF OBEYING GOD THE FATHER**

WHY? 1. Follow J ex 2. Exper G through joyful humble obed 3. God promises to exalt 3

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Was 1st time J exp humil/obed? NO SofG rel to Fath w/humb/obed Not infer being but rel at

to point of death... obey GF=Garden: **Matt. 26:36-56**

even death Cross... J joyf, humb obey GF=Cross=apex, finest/most glorious display of God

Cross: worst of worst...no lower point: 2-3 days, asphyxiation, bled to death, animal tear/eat

WHY? **Matt. 20:28** I came not to be served, but serve & give My life as a ransom 2:9-11

3. **JESUS JOYFULLY RECEIVED EXALTATION/CHANNEL OF SAL** (Vs. 9-11)

Therefore God has highly exalted Why? J humb ob! J treas GF more! GF lov exalt humb

Is 57:15 Matt 23:11 Right: most humbled=most exalted! Hudson Taylor: -sacrifice

Name? LORD & MESSIAH **Acts 2:36 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14-15, Col. 2:15**

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from God... displaced from Him, which is what sin is.