

Sermon Reflections

Brought Low to Go High (Philippians 2:5-11)

Summary: Adopt your King's humble mindset. Bring yourself low that God would unify the church and raise you up.

1. Jesus showed us how to have a humble mindset. (vv. 5-6)

- Unity is maintained through humility. When fractures in the church happen, as was the case in Philippi, the prescription for that to be mended was humility (Philippians 4:2). This only happens when church members, no matter their status, have the same humble mindset that was modeled by Christ our King. He didn't let His status be an excuse to not serve others. Instead He condescended from glory with the Father to this fallen world to serve others (Philippians 2:5-6; John 17:5).
- How can we develop the same kind of humble mindset that Jesus modeled? Has there been an occasion when you struggled to do something that you thought was below you? If so, what action could be taken to remedy that wrong thinking?

2. Jesus showed us how to lay down our rights for others. (v. 7)

- At the incarnation Jesus laid aside His divine prerogatives and advantages and took the form of a servant. In doing so He was serving undeserving, ungrateful rebels. Christianity is not all about you. The one that it is all about came to show what it looks like when it's not all about you. The implications are that Gospel citizens lay aside their rights and privileges and look for how to serve others. In what practical ways can we follow through on a Christlike mindset with action?
- Can you think of a time when you didn't get along with someone at church? Did you resolve your issues? If so, how did that happen? If not, what are you going to do about that unresolved issue so that unity will be restored?

3. Jesus showed us how to be obedient to the Father's will with complete trust. (v. 8)

- Jesus trusted the Father in obedience to death on a cross, separation from His father, and by taking on Himself God's justice, satisfying wrath to reconcile people for Himself and glorify the Father. Looking at Jesus' example, how can we persist in serving others over ourselves? How does taking up one's cross and following Jesus' example of humble obedience help us maintain unity in the church?

4. Jesus showed us that through trusting the Father in humble obedience there is reward. (vv. 9-11)

- Jesus was awarded the highest position at the right hand of the Father and given a name that is above every name through His obedient humiliation on the cross. What kind of reward awaits those who follow Jesus' example of humble obedience? In what measure will our obedience be rewarded?

"He came down not to learn humility but to show it..." — Z-man