

Session 3: Expectations - Unity, Humility, and Submission

Primary Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

Additional Scriptures Referenced:

Philippians 1:7

John 3:30

Session 3 Summary:

This session focuses on Philippians 2 and highlights three expectations for believers: unity, humility, and submission. Paul writes to the church in Philippi, a church that brought him joy, encouraging them to live in a way that reflects the character of Christ.

The message explains that unity among believers matters deeply to God because the church is meant to paint a picture of Jesus to the world. If the world sees arguing, gossip, and division in the church, it sees no difference from the world. But if it sees love, peace, and unity, it sees a reflection of Christ.

The session then explains that unity cannot exist without humility. Humility means refusing selfish ambition, laying aside personal pride, and considering others more important than ourselves. It is not about having less value, but about recognizing that we are not the center of attention.

Finally, the sermon points to Jesus as the perfect example of humility and submission. Though Jesus is God, He did not cling to His divine privileges. He humbled Himself, took on human flesh, became a servant, and obeyed the Father even to the point of death on a cross. Because of His humility and obedience, God exalted Him, and one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Main Session Points:

1. God expects His people to live in unity.

Paul encourages the Philippian believers to be united in love, spirit, and purpose. Unity is not simply the absence of arguing. True unity is revealed when struggles, disagreements, and difficulties arise.

The church is called to show the world a better picture than division and discord. When believers live in unity, they reflect Jesus well.

Key Thought:

How we love each other and live among one another paints a picture of Jesus.

2. Unity cannot exist without humility.

Paul commands believers to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Instead, they are to think of others as better than themselves and take interest in the needs of others.

Humility is not insecurity. It is not believing we have no worth. Rather, humility is realizing that life is not about us being the center of attention. Spiritual maturity means becoming more aware that Christ must increase and we must decrease.

Key Thought:

There is never the presence of unity if humility is absent.

3. Humility grows through submission to Christ.

The sermon explains that we cannot truly humble ourselves apart from Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit to help us say no to ourselves and yes to Christ.

Jesus is the ultimate example of submission. He left His rightful place in heaven, took on human flesh, became a servant, and submitted to death on a cross. His humility was not weakness. It was perfect obedience and love.

Key Thought:

To have the same attitude as Christ, we must submit to Him over and over again.

4. Jesus is the perfect example of humility.

Philippians 2 gives one of the clearest pictures of who Jesus is and what He has done. He did not cling to equality with God, but gave up His divine privileges. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death.

Jesus' humility shows us the heart of God. He came down the mountain we could never climb. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Key Thought:

Jesus emptied Himself, not of His deity, but of His rightful position.

5. Every knee will bow to Jesus.

Because of Jesus' humility and obedience, God exalted Him to the highest place. One day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The question is not whether someone will acknowledge Jesus as King. The question is when.

Key Thought:

Now we may bow to Jesus. Then we must bow.

Key Quotes from the Session:

“Unity among God’s people was important. It is important because how we love each other and how we live among one another is a picture that we paint of Jesus.”

“If the world is looking for love and peace and unity, then it should always be able to find it in the church.”

“Unity is more than the absence of arguing.”

“Unity is actually revealed when struggles arise.”

“There is never the presence of unity if humility is absent.”

“Spiritual maturity is realizing more and more that we are less and less the center of attention.”

“Humility leads to laying things down that are eternally insignificant.”

“Humility helps us realize that life isn’t about how much I gain, but how much I can give.”

“Without Jesus, it is impossible to do this.”

“Jesus emptied Himself, not of His deity, but of His rightful position.”

“The question is when will someone acknowledge Him, not whether or not they will.”

“What I really want is Jesus to be glorified.”

Key Scriptures:

Philippians 2:1-2

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.”

Philippians 2:3-4

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests