

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "A POWERFUL HUMILITY" | PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 | PASTOR CAMERON SEELY

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What comes to mind with the word humble?

### "Joy in Church Unity" *Philippians 2: 1-2*

Believers are to be unified, having the same mind and same love because they've received the same comfort and love from Jesus.

- Why is it hard for believers to be united at times?
- How would focusing on Jesus impact His followers' ability to be united?

### "Being Others Focused" *Philippians 2:3-4*

Believers are to avoid selfishness, vanity and conceit. They are to value others above themselves and look to serve others.

- What are ways selfishness, vanity and conceit/arrogance impact relationships?
- If believers really followed these verses, what would that do to their relationships?

### "Christ Connection: His Humility is Our Example" *Philippians 2:5-8*

Jesus humbled himself before the Father. He was born a man, lived the life of a servant and died in shame on a cross.

- How should Jesus' humility impact how we live like Him and pray for others?

### "A Powerful Humility" *Philippians 2: 9-11*

God the Father has raised Jesus to be King of all and will be honored by all of creation because of His sacrificial love.

- If humility leads to Jesus being honored, what does that mean for His followers when humble themselves?

### REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

God's people are to be united as they all received the same grace, love and Spirit from Jesus. Humility is what makes this unity possible, and Jesus lived the life of a humble servant. God the Father honors Jesus the Son above all for His humility.

- What are ways you fail at being humble?
- What is one way you can humble yourself this month?
- Ask God for forgiveness and for the Holy Spirit to lead you into humility.

## ***A Powerful Humility***

Philippians 2:1-11

### **Intro/Announcement:**

- Such a blessing to know we have a Month to recognize and acknowledge those who have been in and are in the foster care system, as well as those faithful families that love and support them. Many of you are here today and we see you and we love you. We also sincerely thank those for sacrificing and serving those most vulnerable! The Lord bless you all.
- Intro: My name's Cameron I'm the HS Youth Pastor here at Calvary and am so blessed to get to share God's word with you all this morning!
- **How are we doing everyone???**

**Let's pray and continue on in the wonderful letter of Philippians shall we?** (Have everyone turn to Philippians 2:1-11)

### **Recaps:**

- Rome: Last week we had the privilege of hearing Romulo share on worship, and what an absolute gift it was. When he started singing "I love you Lord", many of us joined in. He had me sold at that moment, we were all actively realizing the heart of what singing does for a person's soul. We were all Unified in our love for Him in that moment, it was awesome! (Thank you Rome)
- Pastor Brian (2 weeks back): Before Pastor Brian left for Nepal he finished up Philippians Chapter 1. Where Paul is laying out this incredible display of love for the Philippian Church, while also presenting one of the most "hardcore" truths of His christian faith (and ultimately ares as well) that "To live is Christ and to die is gain". As Paul is chained to Roman guards, to live even in that state was a gift, because He LIVES FOR CHRIST, to serve Him and share Him. But to die, well, to die is to be with Him who He shares and loves. To be with His Lord. Such a gangster reality of the christian faith. And as Pastor Brian said, how annoying for his capturers. They have no way of making Him fearful or hopeless. (And that's a reality for us as well, correct?)

Today, we will take a look at what I prayerfully am titling this small but deep portion of Paul's letter to the Philippians as "**A Powerful Humility**"

But before we go to chapter 2, I want to piggy back a bit on the end of chapter one, I want us to take a look at one thing Paul said towards the end of the first chapter, because He continues that thought and encouragement into the 2nd...(Read Philippians 1:27)

We are going to see that **Paul's Joy is Church Unity.**

**“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”**

**Phil. 1:27**

**Note that verbiage “One Spirit” + “One Mind” as we read the first two verses of chapter 2.**

**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.**

**Phil. 2:1-2**

**The CSB translates verse 2 as...**

**make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love (United in Agape), united in spirit (Two words only used here - Syn & Psychos to be together in your affections), intent on one purpose (Same purpose or desire).**

**Note the Emphasis on oneness. One being ONE. Or being Unified. Now lets take a look at what Paul is laying out.**

**Paul Asks Some Rhetorical Questions: (So if there is any...)**

- **Is there any Encouragement in Christ?:** Is there any encouragement in life with, in, and for Christ. A life of love, forgiveness, grace, truth and life. If you can't say yes at all, that's a question that you need to ask yourself. Paul is assuming this of believers. That yes, we find great encouragement in Christ our savior!
- **Is there any consolation or comfort of love:** Have you found comfort from the love of God and His people. Has anyone here been comforted by God? His Word, or His people? Amen! Because He is the God of all comfort and we are called to comfort those as we have been.

- Is there any participation or fellowship in the Spirit?: I'm a fellowshipper, guys. Friends were my life before God met me. Friends were my God, and I thought my friendships in the world could not be beat. Until I had my first real Christian brother. My first real Proverbs 18:24 friend who was "Closer than a brother". Then I realized how deep and meaningful a friendship in the Spirit can be. What fellowship amongst believers can be. Praying for more of that here!
- Is there any affection or mercy?: Both these Greek words are interesting because they speak of the bowels or the deep parts of our insides. And they ultimately speak of compassion. Is there any deep movements of compassion here? People helping those in need and feeling deeply for them? I hope so. I believe so.

**Paul is basically revving up the engine of the ultimate point He wants to make...**

**If these things are true of the church in Philippi and of us all here in this fellowship of Christ followers today!**

**Then complete my joy, and be unified!!! Be ONE.**

**Literally this is such a cool thing to think about. What brought Paul FULL joy, in the Letter of Rejoicing. Is brothers and sisters being of the same mind, same love, same purpose. For the church being united.**

**Quote 1- "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"  
Psalm133:1**

Its not only Paul's joy, but this is a joy that God has as well. As His people would sing this song as a Song of Ascent as they made their way to Jerusalem.

**Preface** - Many of us in our minds can't help but consider how divided the church is at times. And I can't blame you for that reality. But Christ knew what He was doing when He put the gospel and work of the church into His people's hands. He knew fighting and disagreement would happen. But is this heart and passage not a beautiful word for us all as the church. Will we disagree at times, yes. That inevitable, we are fallible, foolish and finite. But can we not agree on that which is essential and clear? His love, His gospel, and His Kingdom?

As Saint Augustine of Hippo may or may not have said (lol) → In essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, and in all things charity.

I liked this quote by the great Evangelist D.L. Moody...

**Quote 2 - "I've never yet known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people are divided"**

I pray we might not fall into this camp. That we might divide over what is not essential and in doing so quench God's Spirit.

But we are a really cool church so that won't happen (jk)

Next we see Paul's practical means of Church Unity...**Being Other's Focused!**

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility count others** more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also **to the interests of others.**

Phil. 2:3-4

- Paul continues to show the practical application of this unity! (Like how do we do this in the church)
- Our culture and our own sinful hearts tend to ask how do I feel, what can I gain, and how can I get ahead.
- Paul says, not to lead with a heart of selfish ambition (NOTE HE DOESN'T OF AMBITION BUT SELFISH AMBITION)
- David Guzik points out there are many ambitions that are wholesome, good, selfless and even Godly. Paul is not saying lose all ambition.
- This passage is not an encouragement to self deprivation or asceticism (or severe self discipline). Beating yourself up or hating yourself.
- Its an encouragement to see OTHERS more highly than ourselves.. Which is at the heart of the Christian life.

Remember our context here... Paul is speaking about church Unity. How hard might it be, to be divided with or hate a person who harmed you, hurt you, or whom you disagree with, you actually consider them more than yourself.

- How powerful is Paul's exhortation here. Its really a "Put yourself in their shoes" only more. You Humble yourself (go lower) and Literally consider them HIGHER then yourself (esteem them Higher)

**Imagine with me..**

- **That person in your Bible study group who wasn't very welcoming.**
- **The individual who said something your disagree with Biblically** (Now set aside deep theological or heretical disagreement here, but something more secondary)
- **That friend in the church who didn't check in or has been distant.**
- **Maybe even that believer who sinned against you in a very real way.**
- **All things that leave us feeling distant and detracted.**

**Now imagine and pray with me...**

- **What if you thought highly of them?**
- **What if you asked God to help you see them as He does?**
- **What if you prayed for them in a really sincere way?**
- **What if you reached out to sit down and have a genuine conversation in love?**

**Would it fix it all? I don't know for sure. But it would be the humble thing to do. And...**

**“Humility is not thinking less of myself,  
But thinking of myself less,  
And ultimately thinking of others more.”**

- **It's my prayer that in matters like these, especially in the House of God, we would take Paul up on His word here. That when we find ourselves in difficult situations with people in the church or outside. We might consider OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES. (It is the humble way)**

**Pastor David Jeremiah put it simply and beautifully this way...**

**“Everytime we deny ourselves in order to serve someone else, we grow in Christ”**

But is this even possible for us?....(Yes) **Christ's Humility is our example!**  
(Read Philippians 2:5-8)

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

Phil. 2:5-8

- Paul doesn't want this first statement here to be glanced over. He wants us to see that Christ lived out this humility in a real way for us!
- He tells the Philippians to have the same mind among them which is “OURS” in Christ.
- This mindset of humility and sacrificial servitude is not just wishful thinking, but a spiritual reality for those who seek it and want it.
- And Paul lays out for us what this example looked like in the life of Christ!

### **Christ's Powerful Humility on Display:**

- Christ was in the form of God: the greek word for form here does not mean “something like” God, but Morphe means a form that truly expresses and is equal to. Jesus fully expressed and was equal with God.
- He did count EQUALITY w/God something to grasp: Though Jesus could have held tightly to all the privileges and provisions of deity, He did not cling to them like treasure He was desperate to keep close.
- He Emptied Himself or Humbled Himself: Jesus for a moment took on humanity humbling Himself leaving his perfect place of divine glory. (Don't think, he became less God, He just put on humanity)
- By taking on the Form of a Servant: Jesus did not just come to earth as a King, Ruler or Noble, He came to be a Servant. Already choosing a humble path.
- Being Born: The pre existing, eternal Son, was Born. Literally entered Humanity and was in a womb.
- In the Likeness of Men: Jesus didn't come in His transfigured glory or in some Angelic form. But He was in the likeness of any other man. A man we might not even recognize.
- In Perfect Obedience, He dies on the cross: God the Son, perfectly equal with the Father, Humbles himself in obedience to His Father's will, He dies for the sake of His church.

**To help with the theological side of this a few commentators gave a great analogy to help. (Tell the King Example)**

Now this little example helps...But really to think of just how low Jesus got, to serve those who didn't deserve it. You and me. I'm not sure we truly grasp that type of humility he displayed for us. He steps away from perfection, into brokenness. He stepped out of perfect peace into suffering. From eternal life, to tasting death. All for the sake of his lost lambs. He truly considered others more highly than himself.

**And we can have that mind in us towards others in Christ Jesus!**

Now this humility was powerful not only in its capacity to save the lost...But its a **Powerful Humility** because it results in His Exaltation!

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Phil. 2:9-11

**Christ is our great example of humility and being a lowly servant King.**

**But Paul makes it clear that THEREFORE, because of all He did in His incarnation and death on the cross. The Father bestows on Him the name that is above every other name.**

**Who was once lowly and of no reputation is now given the highest Honor by His Father. And the promise that though He was came lowly at one point. Eventually ALL will be in submission before Him, because they will realize who He is.**

**And no box is left unchecked:**

- Those in Heaven
- Those on Earth
- Those Under the Earth

The living, the dead, the angelic and the demonic will all bow in humble adoration to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Holy One of God. Christ Jesus the Lord.

What's incredible, brothers and sisters is He didn't accomplish this by His Powerful MIGHT but by His Powerful Humility. And sinners separated from a Holy God are REUNITED with Him because of that Humility.

**Let trust in His humble sacrifice, and Exalt His name today amen. (Invite worship team up)**

Can't think of a more appropriate way to acknowledge our savior than to partake in communion amen?