

**Life and Death Series Part 6**  
**The Ladder Climber Syndrome**

Pastor Bill Bowers

April 9, 2017

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Jesus came as a servant, not in spite of the fact that He was God, but because He was God.

It is the nature of God to serve

The problem with spending your life climbing the Ladder is that you will go right past Jesus as He is on the way down.

Disciples asked, "Who's the Number One Disciple?"

*And a dispute rose up among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest.*

(Luke 22:24)

*Do you understand what I have done. You call Me Teacher and Lord and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example...Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.* John 13: 12-17

Jesus started what might be called the **Fellowship of the Towel**—an alternative community in a world of Ladder Climbers where people would put a towel over an arm and ask, "How can I serve you?" or "How can I help?"

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:17

Think About It: Do I want my life to be about the Ladder or about the Towel?

**Life & Death (Pt 6)**  
**The Ladder Climber Syndrome**

Pastor Bill Bowers

April 09, 2017

LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- The Apostle Paul begins his instruction from Philippians 2:1-11 with strong instructions for his readers. Read verses one through four and write down all the commands that are given.
- How many distinct commands did you find in the four verses mentioned above? What do you think about them? How would you rate yourself on the success you have with demonstrating those attitudes toward others? Do you think the places where you fall short are for reasons of your responsibility or the responsibility of others? Please explain your answers.
- In verse five (Phil. 2:5), the Apostle instructs; "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." Sit with that statement a moment, "have the same mind or mindset as Christ." How does that instruction make you feel? Is it overwhelming for you? Is it no problem? Is it somewhere in between? Explain your thoughts and what you may feel is the reasoning for them.
- Continuing with this poem about the "mindset of Christ," we read the words describing the attitude of Jesus in verses six through eight (Phil. 2:6-8). Remembering that this is supposed to be **our attitude too**, what does our self-examination speak to us about our ability to actually have and live with this attitude?
  - Do you believe you are "in the form or nature of God?" Explain your response.
  - What do you think about "emptying yourself" and/or becoming a "slave" to others?
  - Can you explain what "obedient to death" might mean in terms of your day-to-day life?
  - Consider the above statements and how this "attitude should be ours..." Consider how this attitude might play out in the context of homelife, worklife, playlife on a daily basis. Try to give real examples if you are able.
- Pastor Bill talked about the "Way up is down..." in his teaching about the Ladder Climber Syndrome. What steps might be necessary for you to change your direction on the ladder? Can you be specific using the guidelines instructed by Paul in verses (Phil. 2: 1-8)?