

Live the Journey

Living Humbly

Participant Guide

¹ 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. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition 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 emptied himself, by 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.

Context

This chapter starts with an interesting statement. Paul says that even if the Philippian church already finds comfort from love, participation in the Spirit, and encouragement in Christ, something is still needed for complete joy. But what could that be? Paul asks them to have their minds united and set in following this advice: 'Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.' For Paul, this attitude is the culmination of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He makes this even clearer in verses five through eleven, where he shares a poem setting before us the example of Jesus' humility.

1. According to this text (vs. 1-4), what are the two main characteristics that accompany the community of the resurrected King? How can we recognize the King's followers?

2. From the poem that follows (verses 5-11), what can we learn about God?

3. From the same verses, what do we learn about being humble? Does the humility of Jesus described here fit the idea of humility held by our society?

4. Would you say that this concept of humility clashes with the values of our current culture? How can we find the power to live a humble life?

A man can counterfeit love, he can counterfeit faith, he can counterfeit hope and all the other graces, but it is very difficult to counterfeit humility.

D.L. Moody

True humility is more like self-forgetfulness than false modesty.

C.S. Lewis.