

Humble Like Jesus

Cody Rogers / General

Philippians 2:3–8

Introduction

› Intro

Good morning everyone. Welcome to Coram Deo. If I haven't had a chance to meet you or this is your first time here, my name is Cody Rogers and I have the honor of serving as both the worship and the college pastor here at Coram Deo.

› Picture of Family

I live here in Davenport with my beautiful wife, Brittany and our four kids. Bella, Tara, Ayden, and our newborn Graceson. And thank you, by the way, to all of those that have been praying for us and supporting us, and blessing us in many ways as we navigate this new journey of having a newborn in our household.

If you didn't know, Graceson is our fourth kid but our first newborn in our family. My wife and I had the immense pleasure of adopting our first three children in 2019 and then had quite the surprise when God gave us a literal miracle in allowing my wife to conceive Graceson.

And I say all this because it's not something I get to talk about often from the stage, I just wanted to let you know what God is doing in our lives and to let you know, if you're considering adoption or entering into foster care and you're looking for someone to talk to, come find myself or my wife. We'd love to answer any questions you have or certainly direct you towards the people who could answer your questions.

Fostering and adopting can be an amazing experience that the Lord will use to glorify himself in, he grow you...and most likely humble you in as well.

› Intro

And actually, humility is what we are here to talk about this morning.

So, if you have your bibles, go ahead and turn to Philippians chapter 2. I'll be joining you there in just a minute and if you don't have a copy of the scriptures go ahead and put your hand in the air, get the attention of one of the ushers that will be making their way down the aisles...we would be happy to get a copy in your hands.

So, why humility? Why are we talking about this particular topic this morning and why should you care?

There's many reasons to talk about it today, but let me give you just a couple.

The first is probably the most obvious...if you claim Christ. That is, if you claim to be a disciple of Jesus, then the things that he did are the things that you desire to do. The things he taught are the things you desire to learn. And Jesus, not only concerned himself with humility, but is the ultimate example of humility. And that right there should be more than enough reason. If our walk with Christ includes Sanctification, that is the process of becoming more holy.... less sinful and more righteous..if sanctification is part of our walk with Christ, and it is, then the motivation to be more like Jesus should be enough. As servants, the pleasure of looking more like our Lord is all that we need.

And the second reason I want to talk about it today...is that humility is a means of church unity. You don't have to look far to see how divided not only our nation is, but how division has wrought the church as well. One of desires as the body of Christ should be to be unified.

The apostle Paul concerned himself quite a bit with Church unity, and in the vein of pleading for unity in the Philippian church, he writes of humility. Maybe that's not something you would immediately put together in your mind...unity, and humility. But certainly as you think about it, it makes sense...and then it certainly makes sense once we look at this scripture, so...let's get our eyes in the text. Our main passage is chapter two, starting in verse 3, but I'm going to start at the beginning of the chapter to give us just a little context of what I'm talking about. The Apostle Paul says:

Philippians 2:1-8 ESV

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.

So if you look back at verse 1 and two there, you'll see the context of the passage I was talking about. Paul starts in verse 1, if there is any encouragement...any comfort...and work of the spirit...any affection...any sympathy...

Essentially, Paul is using a catchall. He's saying to the Philippian church....Listen...if there are any acts of true Christianity among you...if God really is working in you and through you as church...then complete my joy by being of the same mind...you see it in verse 2 there...

Be of the same mind, the same love, full accord (meaning agreement)...and he caps it off with the end of verse 2 there...one mind.

He wants them to be one. Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul pleads for oneness...he pleads for Unity. And with unity on his mind...he instructs them how to be humble...and be humble like Christ.

That's why this message is titled "Humble Like Jesus". Because that's what Paul is asking for here, and that's what we should strive for. And what we see here...are five steps to be humble like Jesus...

And the first one is...

› Check Your Motives (3a)

Look back at the first part of verse three. Paul says “do nothing from selfish ambition or deceit”. The word “nothing” there, implies that every action we take should be evaluated.

Another way to word this sentence would be, “do EVERYTHING, without selfish ambition or deceit.”

All actions...no matter how big, or small, should be done absent selfish ambition...or deception.

So, what does selfish ambition mean here? Well the greek word itself gets at this idea of “aiming for gain”. Meaning, doing things because you personally stand to gain from it. This same word is used earlier in Philippians when Paul is speaking of people preaching Christ...

› Philippians Slide

Philippians 1:17 ESV

¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

This verse shows us that it is possible to do good things...because Church...proclaiming Christ is good. There's a reason it's called “good news”. BUT, this verse shows us it is quite possible to do Good things...Godly things...for personal gain.

› Check Your Motives

That's why this first step of humility, is about checking your motives...not your actions. Because your actions can and will be deceptive at times...not only to others...but also to yourself. You can deceive yourself with good actions.

You can fool yourself into thinking you are being Godly, you can deceive both the people around you and your own mind...And the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul knows that...and chose to start off this plea for humility with a heart check.

So the application is simple here. When evaluating the true humility of your own actions...simply ask “why did I do that?”. “What motivated me to do that?”.

Now, before we move on...note the difference here. You could easily find reason why you should have done it...you could easily find reasons that justify your actions, that make you appear Godly...you may indeed find reasons that are perfectly good reasons....but that's not what we are asking.

What we are asking is “Why did I do that”not “What motivation behind doing that makes me look good?”

So that's step 1. Check your motives...and step 2 comes hand in hand with step 1 and that is...

› 2) Change your perspective. (3b)

Look back at the second half of verse 3 there. Not only should we do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, we should count others more significant than ourselves.

We need to change our perspective, that is, change how we view other people.

Now, the greek word for “significant” here literally means “better than”. Paul is saying...count others as better than you.

When our kids first came to us, Brittany and I wanted to teach them humility, not only towards friends...but towards each other as well. But you can probably understand that my four and five year olds didn’t necessarily have the full meaning of significant at that age.

So we taught it to them like this...”treat others as more special than you”.

Now the nuance of this verse here, as you can see back in the text in verse 3, is that Paul uses the word “count others”. The word there literally meaning...consider them.

Paul doesn’t say “know that others are better than you”or....”understand that you aren’t as special as the people around you.”....

He isn’t saying that. But he is saying...you should treat them as if they were. He isn’t claiming that others have more worth than you....but rather, you should consider them as if they did.

When our kids would get in trouble for not treating someone like this...we would ask, what did you get in trouble for? They would say “not treating them as more special than me.” And then we would come back to say.... “Are they more special than you?” No, but God wants us to treat them like they were.

So, how do you know if that’s what you are doing? If you’re wanting to take this point home, and put it to application, what’s a good test to see if you actually are counting others as more significant than yourself?

Let me give you a few questions to ask yourself as you evaluate, maybe a particular relationship.

1. Do you meet only on your time? Like, when it’s convenient for you and makes the most sense for you.
2. Do you spend the minimum on them? This doesn’t just pertain to money, but it certainly can. It’s no secret that we spend quality time and quality money on things that we love.

For example...if you walked into my house and sat down in our dining room...you’re going to find out real quickly that I love coffee. And I don’t just mean that I love coffee like people who go to starbucks and get a mocha milkshake....I mean, I love coffee itself. How it’s grown, farmed, produced, roasted, sold, and brewed.

And you can tell this at home because I have a coffee bar in our dining room that’s filled with things I have invested in. Quality coffee grinders, a quality espresso machine, quality kettles, quality brewers, and even water that I mix myself to have quality minerals in it. You can tell the minute you walk into our house, that I don’t just spend the minimum on a caffeine fix...but rather, I have a passion for it.

So what are your passions? Do you spend the minimum on them? I would say probably not. The things we find significant receive a significant amount of time and money spent. Do the people in your life that you're suppose to be viewing as more significant, do they receive the minimum from you?

So, do you meet only on your time? Do you spend the minimum on them (whether it's time, or money, or relational capacity).

3. Would they say that you see them as significant? This may be the most important one out of these three questions, church. Jesus' disciples had no doubt about how Jesus felt about them...especially as he's going around the room serving them and washing their feet, or healing their relatives, weeping alongside them, and certainly as he's dying on the cross for them.

So, the people that are in your life...do they perceive that you see them as more significant than yourself? Not sure? I would ask them.

So if you want to be humble like Jesus, check your motives...change your perspective...and this next one I've alluded to a bit already...

› **Serve others. (v4)**

Philippians 2:4 ESV

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

So not only are we called to change how we view others in verse 3, but now we are called to do something about it. It's not just that we view somebody themselves as more significant than us...but now we are told to "look" to their interests. The word "look" there means to "consider" or "behold".

Meaning, our perspective isn't the only thing that has to change. It's not just that I would look at someone and view them differently...but rather we would look at someone, view them differently, and let their interests, meaning their needs...that's what that word implies there...their needs...we would look at their needs and let them take up some of our brain space.

Look at the way Paul words this again...

Look at the implied perspective back in verse 4 here. Paul says "look not only to his own interests"...what is this implying?

That we already do a good job looking towards our own interests...both physical...and emotional. Paul isn't saying that looking towards our own needs is bad...but rather we need to be doing the same towards others with equal fervor.

› **Mark Slide**

It's like when Jesus says in [Mark 12:31](#)

[Mark 12:31](#) (ESV)

³¹ 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

He isn't saying that the key to loving your neighbor is to love yourself more...but rather the key to loving your neighbor is loving them like you already love yourself.

› **Serve Others**

The same is found in this passage...the key to humility is serving others the way you already serve yourself. By considering the needs of others the way you already consider your own needs...both physical, and emotional.

This is probably the easiest point of this message to understand, because Christ laid such a great example for us...and the idea that the church should be serving others is ingrained in us. People don't argue that. But...there's something that gets in the way of this quite often. Isn't there?

What is it that gets in the way of our serving others so often? I would say, it's too great of a focus on one's self.

And I don't just mean too great of a focus on loving and taking care of yourself...I mean it's a love for how we view ourselves...a love for what we think we deserve, or what we think we are owed.

Do you know what we call things we think are owed to us? Things that cannot and should not be taken away? We call them rights...and they come in many different forms. Some of them are government given rights, like the right to bear arms, or the right to a speedy trial...

Some of them are God given rights....like the sanctity of life...

But let's be honest for a minute...there are many things we elevate to the level of rights in our life.

Our right to be seen, our right to be heard, our right to be important, our right to not be wronged, our right to not be inconvenienced...and so on.

And church, if we want to be humble like Jesus...there are certain things that we have to be willing to give up. And that's what step for is in being humble like Jesus...

› **Give up your rights. (v5-6)**

This is a hard one, because we, especially as Americans, the land of the free, the home of the brave...we love fighting for our rights.

We love our rights, as Americans. And for those of you that are Iowans...the love for our rights is taken a step further...do you know what the state motto is of Iowa? It's written right on the state flag.

› **Iowa State Flag**

"Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

I don't need to say much more...because this is ingrained and impassioned in you. The fight over protecting our rights, and the debate on what is a right and what isn't is at the heart of almost every single one of our political issues.

› Give up your rights.

I'm not saying in step 4 here, that the key to humility is to give up every single one of these rights that we have as Americans...or any of them. But what I am saying, is that the key to humility, is to be humble like Jesus, and Jesus himself was willing to give up certain rights...and so should we. In verses 5 and 6 here, Paul begins hinging his plea for humility on the example of Christ, he begins directing our eyes towards him as the example of humility...look back at verse 5.

[Philippians 2:5-6](#) (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

So Paul is saying...as you consider humility, as you check your motives, change your perspective, and seek to serve others...you need to have the mindset of Jesus. That is...the mindset that has been given to you because you belong to Jesus. So Paul pleads that while seeking to be humble, that we look upon Jesus as the example and try to adopt his mindset..

So, as you seek to be humble, have the mindset of Jesus...back to verse 6.

Philippians 2:6 ESV

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Paul says. Have the mindset of Jesus...who gave up the greatest right that could be known. You can see it right there...

Jesus, who “though he was in the form of God”...that’s a way of saying “though he was God”...Jesus, though he was God...back at the text... “did not count equality with God a thing to be...grasped.” If you have the ESV translation you’ll see that there’s a footnote the word “grasped” and it says that it means Jesus didn’t count equality with God as a thing to be held on to for advantage....or other translations even render the word as exploited.

What does this mean? It means that even though Jesus WAS God...he didn’t exploit that fact...Jesus didn’t play the God card.

It means..that as Jesus is hanging there on the cross, beaten and torn, bloodied and bruised, crowds mocking him and humiliating him...he didn’t say “do you have any idea who I am?”. “Do you have any idea what I could do to you?”

“I’m the son of God! I’m God in the Flesh!”

Jesus didn’t say “it is my right as God himself to be taken off this cross...it is my right to punish each one of you as you deserve because I am a holy and faithful God and you are imperfect and a faithless people.”

No. Jesus didn’t say any of that. In fact, quite the opposite. People mocked him to do just that, and he did not. He chose not. This is Matthew’s account of what happened as Jesus hung on the cross.

› Matthew verses.

Matthew 27:39–43 ESV

³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

So they all mocked him, and urged him to exploit his rights as the son of God. To use them to save himself....not really knowing that they were asking for him to save himself rather than save sinners like them.

Not really knowing they were asking him to count himself as more significant...to serve himself rather than him.

› Give up your rights

Church, I want to ask you....do any of you have more claim to your rights as human, or as an American, or a mother or father, or man or woman....do any of you have more claim to your rights...than Jesus did being the son of God? Being God in flesh?

Of course not.

Paul, in this charge to us to be humble....points our eyes to Jesus, tells us to be humble like Jesus...and shows us, that part of that humility is to give up certain rights....just like Jesus did giving up his right to punish those piercing him, his right to save himself, his right to call upon angels, his right to heal his wounds...part of true humility, is being willing to give up rights just like that.

And church...praise God, that the “rights” that we often have to give up in order to meet the needs of others...pale in comparison to Jesus giving up his rights to suffer a death on the cross.

In fact, the things we often need to give up shouldn’t even be considered rights...but we treat them like they are...and when it comes to giving them up to follow hard after Jesus in having true humility...we find it a struggle to lay them down.

Like the desire to have an awkward free conversation. It’s amazing how often we give up serving someone else, seeing them as more significant, meeting their needs, just because we don’t want to have an awkward conversation...or make awkward eye contact...or say the wrong thing....or feel a little helpless alongside them.

Or maybe it’s the desire to get home on time, catch the game, eat dinner, spend time doing things you love...it’s sad the amount of times we (including myself), are far too unwilling to give that up in order to meet the need of someone else.

And those are just the tiny little things that no one will ever call you out on because only you can really check your motives and change your perspective...but there are the bigger things too, right?

Like forsaking orphans and not even considering letting a foster child into your home because you're comfortable with the way your family is right now and you don't want to change the dynamics or disrupt the stability you find yourself in...or not inviting the widow next door to supper because her conversations make everything awkward and you don't want to deal that right now...

Maybe it's not following the call to go to the nations, to reach the unreached, to bring the news of Jesus to people who have no opportunity to hear of him because they don't have Christians that speak their language or a copy of the Bible...Maybe it's not following the call to go to the ends of the earth because you like your salary, and your house, and your kids have friends, or you're scared you might get hurt or persecuted...

Now, I'm not saying every single one of us should do every single one of these things...even Jesus had to prioritize whom and served and when he served them...but I am saying that there are those of us in the room that need to hear this as the thing that may finally cause them to shake loose from their love of what they think they have the right to and begin considering that Jesus might have something for them to give up.

And we could literally go on and on with examples. But it all boils down to the same thing.

We don't like to give up the things we consider valuable, the things we fight for, the things that we claim..or maybe even are rights....we don't like to give those up....so instead, we seek to serve where it's convenient. Where we are comfortable. Where we as introverts don't have to talk to too many people, or we as citizens can find security...

But I'll end this point with this, because I trust the Holy Spirit will do a far better job revealing to you your unique and individual points on this...more than a hundred illustrations can...

Jesus himself. Our lord and savior. God in Flesh....he himself is the example of of what it means to have the right motives, have the right perspective, serve others, give up rights...he himself did all those things, and empowers all those things...and so if you're finding yourself lost in this...needing guidance, clarity...seek him. Pray. Find him in the word. Find counsel in his body of believers.

He's the one who will help you in these four steps of humility, and certainly in this fifth and last one....which is

› **Be obedient. (v 7-8)**

So, instead of grasping onto being God...what did Jesus do?

Philippians 2:7-8 ESV

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.

So instead of exploiting his right to be king of all, master of creation...Jesus empties himself and becomes a servant. When it says that Jesus emptied himself, it means that he left behind his throne, left behind his rights, left behind being the one who controlled, and poured himself by incarnating and becoming a servant. He didn't lose his divinity, he didn't stop becoming God...but rather he willingly and intentionally poured himself into being what we needed...a servant from God.

This should harken us back to verse 4 and our own steps towards humility, which was to serve others. Right here, we see Paul use Jesus as the ultimate example of that...the ultimate example of serving others.

So let's recap how Jesus himself is an example of humility.

Jesus...

Had the right motives...(his desire was not for selfish gain but for our gain)

He had the right perspective (he was counting others as more significant than himself)

He served others by pouring himself out, and taking on the form of a servant..

As he did this, he gave up his rights and chose not to take advantage of the fact that he was God, choosing rather to serve than to be served...

And on top of all this...what was he doing? He was being obedient.

And who was he obedient to? God the father.

When it comes to being humble like Jesus...Jesus shows us that one of the main motivators, one of the main reasons to be humble, one of the main ways to BE humble...is to be obedient. Like he was.

He was so obedient in fact, that he let himself be led to not only death...but death on a cross...one of the worst ways that mankind has ever devised to take the life of another human.

So as we wrap up, let me ask you this...when it comes to our humility...where should our obedience stop? Should it stop when we start feeling uncomfortable? Should it stop when we get weary and tired? Should it stop when people act in a way that we didn't expect? Or frustrate us to no end?

No. If we are to be humble like Jesus, we are to be obedient to the death. To serve others to the death.

To be willing to give up our lives to share the gospel with them. Whether that be our lives of comfort...or our actual physical lives.

Church...if we are going to follow after Christ...if we are going to listen to the apostle Paul and have one mind, and be of one accord...then we need to start seeking true humility. We need to strive to be humble like Jesus.

› Summary Slide

We need to check our motives to see if they are his motives.

We need to change our perspective to be like his perspective.

We need to serve others the way that he served others.

We need to be willing to give up our rights the way he gave up his rights.

And we need to be obedient as he was.

That's how we become humble like Jesus. That's how we unify the church and have one mind, and be of one accord, and it's one of the ways we follow hard after Jesus.

Let's pray.

Humble Like Jesus

Cody Rogers / General

Philippians 2:3-8

Introduction

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Philippians 2:1-8 ESV

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› **Philippians Slide**

Philippians 1:17 ESV

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This verse shows us that it is possible to do good things...because Church...proclaiming Christ is good. There's a reason it's called "good news". BUT, this verse shows us it is quite possible to do Good things...Godly things...for personal gain.

› **Check Your Motives**

That's why this first step of humility, is about checking your motives...not your actions. Because your actions can and will be deceptive at times...not only to others...but also to yourself. You can deceive yourself with good actions.

You can fool yourself into thinking you are being Godly, you can deceive both the people around you and your own mind...And the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul knows that...and chose to start off this plea for humility with a heart check.

So the application is simple here. When evaluating the true humility of your own actions...simply ask "why did I do that?". "What motivated me to do that?".

Now, before we move on...note the difference here. You could easily find reason why you should have done it...you could easily find reasons that justify your actions, that make you appear Godly...you may indeed find reasons that are perfectly good reasons....but that's not what we are asking.

What we are asking is “Why did I do that”not “What motivation behind doing that makes me look good?”

So that’s step 1. Check your motives...and step 2 comes hand in hand with step 1 and that is...

› 2) Change your perspective. (3b)

Look back at the second half of verse 3 there. Not only should we do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, we should count others more significant than ourselves.

We need to change our perspective, that is, change how we view other people.

Now, the greek word for “significant” here literally means “better than”. Paul is saying...count others as better than you.

When our kids first came to us, Brittany and I wanted to teach them humility, not only towards friends...but towards each other as well. But you can probably understand that my four and five year olds didn’t necessarily have the full meaning of significant at that age.

So we taught it to them like this...”treat others as more special than you”.

Now the nuance of this verse here, as you can see back in the text in verse 3, is that Paul uses the word “count others”. The word there literally meaning...consider them.

Paul doesn’t say “know that others are better than you”or....”understand that you aren’t as special as the people around you.”....

He isn’t saying that. But he is saying...you should treat them as if they were. He isn’t claiming that others have more worth than you....but rather, you should consider them as if they did.

When our kids would get in trouble for not treating someone like this...we would ask, what did you get in trouble for? They would say “not treating them as more special than me.” And then we would come back to say.... “Are they more special than you?” No, but God wants us to treat them like they were.

So, how do you know if that’s what you are doing? If you’re wanting to take this point home, and put it to application, what’s a good test to see if you actually are counting others as more significant than yourself?

Let me give you a few questions to ask yourself as you evaluate, maybe a particular relationship.

1. Do you meet only on your time? Like, when it’s convenient for you and makes the most sense for you.
2. Do you spend the minimum on them? This doesn’t just pertain to money, but it certainly can. It’s no secret that we spend quality time and quality money on things that we love.

For example...if you walked into my house and sat down in our dining room...you're going to find out real quickly that I love coffee. And I don't just mean that I love coffee like people who go to starbucks and get a mocha milkshake....I mean, I love coffee itself. How it's grown, farmed, produced, roasted, sold, and brewed.

And you can tell this at home because I have a coffee bar in our dining room that's filled with things I have invested in. Quality coffee grinders, a quality espresso machine, quality kettles, quality brewers, and even water that I mix myself to have quality minerals in it. You can tell the minute you walk into our house, that I don't just spend the minimum on a caffeine fix...but rather, I have a passion for it.

So what are your passions? Do you spend the minimum on them? I would say probably not. The things we find significant receive a significant amount of time and money spent. Do the people in your life that you're suppose to be viewing as more significant, do they receive the minimum from you?

So, do you meet only on your time? Do you spend the minimum on them (whether it's time, or money, or relational capacity).

3. Would they say that you see them as significant? This may be the most important one out of these three questions, church. Jesus' disciples had no doubt about how Jesus felt about them...especially as he's going around the room serving them and washing their feet, or healing their relatives, weeping alongside them, and certainly as he's dying on the cross for them.

So, the people that are in your life...do they perceive that you see them as more significant than yourself? Not sure? I would ask them.

So if you want to be humble like Jesus, check your motives...change your perspective...and this next one I've alluded to a bit already...

› **Serve others. (v4)**

Philippians 2:4 ESV

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

So not only are we called to change how we view others in verse 3, but now we are called to do something about it. It's not just that we view somebody themselves as more significant than us...but now we are told to "look" to their interests. The word "look" there means to "consider" or "behold".

Meaning, our perspective isn't the only thing that has to change. It's not just that I would look at someone and view them differently...but rather we would look at someone, view them differently, and let their interests, meaning their needs...that's what that word implies there...their needs...we would look at their needs and let them take up some of our brain space.

Look at the way Paul words this again...

Look at the implied perspective back in verse 4 here. Paul says "look not only to his own interests"...what is this implying?

That we already do a good job looking towards our own interests...both physical...and emotional. Paul isn't saying that looking towards our own needs is bad...but rather we need to be doing the same towards others with equal fervor.

› **Mark Slide**

It's like when Jesus says in [Mark 12:31](#)

[Mark 12:31](#) (ESV)

³¹ 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

He isn't saying that the key to loving your neighbor is to love yourself more...but rather the key to loving your neighbor is loving them like you already love yourself.

› **Serve Others**

The same is found in this passage...the key to humility is serving others the way you already serve yourself. By considering the needs of others the way you already consider your own needs...both physical, and emotional.

This is probably the easiest point of this message to understand, because Christ laid such a great example for us...and the idea that the church should be serving others is ingrained in us. People don't argue that. But...there's something that gets in the way of this quite often. Isn't there?

What is it that gets in the way of our serving others so often? I would say, it's too great of a focus on one's self.

And I don't just mean too great of a focus on loving and taking care of yourself...I mean it's a love for how we view ourselves...a love for what we think we deserve, or what we think we are owed.

Do you know what we call things we think are owed to us? Things that cannot and should not be taken away? We call them rights...and they come in many different forms. Some of them are government given rights, like the right to bear arms, or the right to a speedy trial...

Some of them are God given rights....like the sanctity of life...

But let's be honest for a minute...there are many things we elevate to the level of rights in our life.

Our right to be seen, our right to be heard, our right to be important, our right to not be wronged, our right to not be inconvenienced...and so on.

And church, if we want to be humble like Jesus...there are certain things that we have to be willing to give up. And that's what step for is in being humble like Jesus...

› **Give up your rights. (v5-6)**

This is a hard one, because we, especially as Americans, the land of the free, the home of the brave...we love fighting for our rights.

We love our rights, as Americans. And for those of you that are Iowans...the love for our rights is taken a step further...do you know what the state motto is of Iowa? It's written right on the state flag.

› **Iowa State Flag**

“Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.”

I don’t need to say much more...because this is ingrained and impassioned in you. The fight over protecting our rights, and the debate on what is a right and what isn’t is at the heart of almost every single one of our political issues.

› Give up your rights.

I’m not saying in step 4 here, that the key to humility is to give up every single one of these rights that we have as Americans...or any of them. But what I am saying, is that the key to humility, is to be humble like Jesus, and Jesus himself was willing to give up certain rights...and so should we. In verses 5 and 6 here, Paul begins hinging his plea for humility on the example of Christ, he begins directing our eyes towards him as the example of humility...look back at verse 5.

[Philippians 2:5-6](#) (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

So Paul is saying...as you consider humility, as you check your motives, change your perspective, and seek to serve others...you need to have the mindset of Jesus. That is...the mindset that has been given to you because you belong to Jesus. So Paul pleads that while seeking to be humble, that we look upon Jesus as the example and try to adopt his mindset..

So, as you seek to be humble, have the mindset of Jesus...back to verse 6.

Philippians 2:6 ESV

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Paul says. Have the mindset of Jesus...who gave up the greatest right that could be known. You can see it right there...

Jesus, who “though he was in the form of God” ...that’s a way of saying “though he was God” ...Jesus, though he was God...back at the text... “did not count equality with God a thing to be...grasped.” If you have the ESV translation you’ll see that there’s a footnote the word “grasped” and it says that it means Jesus didn’t count equality with God as a thing to be held on to for advantage....or other translations even render the word as exploited.

What does this mean? It means that even though Jesus WAS God...he didn’t exploit that fact...Jesus didn’t play the God card.

It means..that as Jesus is hanging there on the cross, beaten and torn, bloodied and bruised, crowds mocking him and humiliating him...he didn’t say “do you have any idea who I am?”. “Do you have any idea what I could do to you?”

“I’m the son of God! I’m God in the Flesh!”

Jesus didn’t say “it is my right as God himself to be taken off this cross...it is my right to punish each one of you as you deserve because I am a holy and faithful God and you are imperfect and a faithless people.”

No. Jesus didn't say any of that. In fact, quite the opposite. People mocked him to do just that, and he did not. He chose not. This is Matthew's account of what happened as Jesus hung on the cross.

› **Matthew verses.**

Matthew 27:39–43 ESV

³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him." ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.' "

So they all mocked him, and urged him to exploit his rights as the son of God. To use them to save himself....not really knowing that they were asking for him to save himself rather than save sinners like them.

Not really knowing they were asking him to count himself as more significant...to serve himself rather than him.

› **Give up your rights**

Church, I want to ask you....do any of you have more claim to your rights as human, or as an American, or a mother or father, or man or woman....do any of you have more claim to your rights...than Jesus did being the son of God? Being God in flesh?

Of course not.

Paul, in this charge to us to be humble....points our eyes to Jesus, tells us to be humble like Jesus...and shows us, that part of that humility is to give up certain rights....just like Jesus did giving up his right to punish those piercing him, his right to save himself, his right to call upon angels, his right to heal his wounds...part of true humility, is being willing to give up rights just like that.

And church...praise God, that the "rights" that we often have to give up in order to meet the needs of others...pale in comparison to Jesus giving up his rights to suffer a death on the cross.

In fact, the things we often need to give up shouldn't even be considered rights...but we treat them like they are...and when it comes to giving them up to follow hard after Jesus in having true humility...we find it a struggle to lay them down.

Like the desire to have an awkward free conversation. It's amazing how often we give up serving someone else, seeing them as more significant, meeting their needs, just because we don't want to have an awkward conversation...or make awkward eye contact...or say the wrong thing....or feel a little helpless alongside them.

Or maybe it's the desire to get home on time, catch the game, eat dinner, spend time doing things you love...it's sad the amount of times we (including myself), are far too unwilling to give that up in order to meet the need of someone else.

And those are just the tiny little things that no one will ever call you out on because only you can really check your motives and change your perspective...but there are the bigger things too, right?

Like forsaking orphans and not even considering letting a foster child into your home because you're comfortable with the way your family is right now and you don't want to change the dynamics or disrupt the stability you find yourself in...or not inviting the widow next door to supper because her conversations make everything awkward and you don't want to deal that right now...

Maybe it's not following the call to go to the nations, to reach the unreached, to bring the news of Jesus to people who have no opportunity to hear of him because they don't have Christian's that speak their language or a copy of the Bible...Maybe it's not following the call to go to the ends of the earth because you like your salary, and your house, and your kids have friends, or you're scared you might get hurt or persecuted...

Now, I'm not saying every single one of us should do every single one of these things...even Jesus had to prioritize whom and served and when he served them...but I am saying that there are those of us in the room that need to hear this as the thing that may finally cause them to shake loose from their love of what they think they have the right to and begin considering that Jesus might have something for them to give up.

And we could literally go on and on with examples. But it all boils down to the same thing.

We don't like to give up the things we consider valuable, the things we fight for, the things that we claim...or maybe even are rights....we don't like to give those up....so instead, we seek to serve where it's convenient. Where we are comfortable. Where we as introverts don't have to talk to too many people, or we as citizens can find security...

But I'll end this point with this, because I trust the Holy Spirit will do a far better job revealing to you your unique and individual points on this...more than a hundred illustrations can...

Jesus himself. Our lord and savior. God in Flesh....he himself is the example of of what it means to have the right motives, have the right perspective, serve others, give up rights...he himself did all those things, and empowers all those things...and so if you're finding yourself lost in this...needing guidance, clarity...seek him. Pray. Find him in the word. Find counsel in his body of believers.

He's the one who will help you in these four steps of humility, and certainly in this fifth and last one....which is

› **Be obedient. (v 7-8)**

So, instead of grasping onto being God...what did Jesus do?

Philippians 2:7-8 ESV

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.

So instead of exploiting his right to be king of all, master of creation...Jesus empties himself and becomes a servant. When it says that Jesus emptied himself, it means that he left behind his throne, left behind his rights, left behind being the one who controlled, and poured himself by incarnating and

becoming a servant. He didn't lose his divinity, he didn't stop becoming God...but rather he willingly and intentionally poured himself into being what we needed...a servant from God.

This should harken us back to verse 4 and our own steps towards humility, which was to serve others. Right here, we see Paul use Jesus as the ultimate example of that...the ultimate example of serving others.

So let's recap how Jesus himself is an example of humility.

Jesus...

Had the right motives...(his desire was not for selfish gain but for our gain)

He had the right perspective (he was counting others as more significant than himself)

He served others by pouring himself out, and taking on the form of a servant..

As he did this, he gave up his rights and chose not to take advantage of the fact that he was God, choosing rather to serve than to be served...

And on top of all this...what was he doing? He was being obedient.

And who was he obedient to? God the father.

When it comes to being humble like Jesus...Jesus shows us that one of the main motivators, one of the main reasons to be humble, one of the main ways to BE humble...is to be obedient. Like he was.

He was so obedient in fact, that he let himself be led to not only death...but death on a cross...one of the worst ways that mankind has ever devised to take the life of another human.

So as we wrap up, let me ask you this...when it comes to our humility...where should our obedience stop? Should it stop when we start feeling uncomfortable? Should it stop when we get weary and tired? Should it stop when people act in a way that we didn't expect? Or frustrate us to no end?

No. If we are to be humble like Jesus, we are to be obedient to the death. To serve others to the death.

To be willing to give up our lives to share the gospel with them. Whether that be our lives of comfort...or our actual physical lives.

Church...if we are going to follow after Christ...if we are going to listen to the apostle Paul and have one mind, and be of one accord...then we need to start seeking true humility. We need to strive to be humble like Jesus.

› Summary Slide

We need to check our motives to see if they are his motives.

We need to change our perspective to be like his perspective.

We need to serve others the way that he served others.

We need to be willing to give up our rights the way he gave up his rights.

And we need to be obedient as he was.

That's how we become humble like Jesus. That's how we unify the church and have one mind, and be of one accord, and it's one of the ways we follow hard after Jesus.

Let's pray.