

8. COUNT OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT: Philippians 2:1-5

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, July 19th, 2020

Theme: “If we are in Christ, we *must* be united. If we would be united, we *must humble ourselves* for others as *Christ humbled himself for us*.”

I. IF WE ARE IN CHRIST, WE MUST BE UNITED (v.1-2)

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2 “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.”

- **Verse 1** = “if you are in fact in Christ; If you do indeed possess any of the benefits He has purchased for you, or any of the new qualities the Holy Spirit has worked in you...” **Verse 2** = Exhortation to unity.

Q. Why does it matter so much that Christians, especially local churches, be united? **A.** Jesus’ glory and Jesus’ gospel are at stake!

I) Jesus’ glory is seen in His peoples’ unity

- **JOHN 17:10-11** “10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 ...Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

II) Jesus’ trustworthiness is seen in His peoples’ unity

- **JOHN 17:20-23** “20 I ...ask... 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me... 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”
- **The unity of the Church is a physical sermon preached to the world.** It says, “Look what Christ can do! He takes strangers—even natural enemies—and turns them into a loving family!”
- **The unity of the Church is billboard on the world stage that says,** “Jesus does what the U.N. and social activists can only dream of! He brings peace.”

II. IF WE WOULD BE UNITED, WE MUST HUMBLE OURSELVES (v.3b)

PHILIPPIANS 2:3b “...but in humility...”

- **This word “Humility”** means to *think* of yourself with lowliness. **MarArthur** points out it literally means, “**Think like a slave.**”
- **MARK 10:43-45** “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- **As Dr. Lawson put it,** “For a believer, humility is the most foundational of all Christian virtues. No one struts through the narrow gate that leads to the kingdom. No one high steps their way through the narrow path. We are sheep, not peacocks; servants, not sovereigns.”
- **Not one place in the entirety of God’s Word are we told to “Be humble.”** Yet we are frequently commanded, “Humble yourself.” Or “Think like a slave.”
- **It takes rigor; it takes action; it takes constantly remembering who I am outside of the grace of God; who I am without the strength God supplies; who I am if I have to stand before God with only my works to offer Him and not clothed in the righteousness of Jesus!**

III. IF WE WOULD HUMBLE OURSELVES, WE MUST AVOID SELFISH AMBITION AND CONCEIT (v.3a)

PHILIPPIANS 2:3a “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,”

- **Selfish ambition** = “Electioneering; putting yourself forward; promoting your own interests.” (cf. Phil.1:17).
- **Conceit** = “Vain glory, self esteem, pride, being conceited.”
- **The Christian life is not about Christians; the Christian life is about Christ!** **Q.** What is your life about? Who do you boast in?

IV. IF WE WOULD HUMBLE OURSELVES, WE MUST COUNT OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN OURSELVES (v.3c-4)

PHILIPPIANS 2:3c-4 “3c...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.”

V. WE HUMBLE OURSELVES FOR CHRIST BECAUSE CHRIST HUMBLING HIMSELF FOR US (v.5)

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,” (lit. “which was also in Christ Jesus”)

- **The only way I am going to be properly motivated to humble myself, count others more significant than myself, and look not only to my own interest but to the interests of others is if I constantly stare at the cross of Jesus Christ!**
- **On the cross, Jesus counted me more significant than himself and for my sin was crushed.**
- **Q. Why?** **A.** Because of my sin. Because of my rebellion. Because of my law-breaking, my iniquity, my transgressions. Because of the debts I have racked up and the death sentence I deserve.
- **On the cross, Jesus did not only seek his own interests but MINE!**
- **Q. Did he do that for you?** If your faith is in Him and Him alone—or if you trust in Him right now!—you can be sure He did. And if He is your life, you will gladly seek to “in humility count others more significant than yourself, not seeking only your own interests but the interests of others.”
- **Because Jesus considered you more significant than himself and went to the cross, no matter how deep in the pit of sin you may be, Jesus’ arms are long enough and strong enough to pluck you out. There is no shame he cannot erase, no filth he cannot clean, no tears his hands cannot dry.** If He considered you more significant than Himself and died for you, then you can entrust yourself to Him that He has your best interest in mind. Trust in Him and what He did for you in His humility; He is trustworthy. Follow Him in His humility; He is worthy.