



Sermon Discussion Guide

October 11, 2026

Philippians 2:1-11

Summary

Big Idea: Our New Status in Christ Leads Us to Serve Those Around Us

Paul's concern for unity in the church comes to the forefront in our verses. What is the path to unity in the church? Humility. Selfish ambition is a real temptation, especially for self-willed people, which we all are in our flesh. The good news for Christians is that God has provided a way to live differently. That way centers entirely on Christ. Jesus not only provides forgiveness for our selfish ambition, but the way he provides gives us a model to follow and the image God desires to conform us to. For Paul, the model of humility is also a mindset that he desires us all to share together. As followers of Christ, we constantly need to push ourselves to increasingly be about the best gospel-interest of others, while our indulgence in our own wants, preferences and desires decrease.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been proud of how humble you are?

Read Philippians 2:1-11

2. Why is it significant that verse 1 comes before verse 4? In other words, how does believing and understanding the realities of what we have already received in verse 1 provide helpful context for thinking about the command in verse 4? What happens if/when we try to obey verse 4 without believing verse 1?
3. Christ had genuine status, "equality with God," and he did not exploit that for his own advantage. Is there a difference between having status and clinging to it? Can you have real standing, authority, position and hold it humbly?
4. From these verses, how would you define humility? What is humility not?
5. How do this teaching and Christ's example line up with our culture's demands and emphasis on "my rights"? Where do you find yourself thinking, "I have the right to _____"
6. Where in your life are you most tempted to protect and serve your own interests rather than letting the interests of others take priority - at work, home, in this church, in this group?
 - a. What makes that particular situation difficult?
 - b. Are there limits to serving others' interests? Biblically, what are those limits?
7. Think of the people God has placed in your life. Are there any interests that you have been slow to notice or slow to act on? What would it look like to notice and act this week?
8. Christ's exaltation in v9-11 doesn't come from him pursuing it, but receiving it from the Father. What does this teach us about the relationship between serving others and being honored? Where in your life are you craving that honor and recognition to come here and now? When will it come?
9. Is it possible to have true unity in the church without humility?



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