

## Philippians 2:1-11

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 rivalry 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 made himself nothing, 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.

### Community Group Study 22 Nov 2009

#### Introduction

In one of the richest passages of the book, Paul encourages humility, considering others better than ourselves, not doing anything out of rivalry or conceit, and looking to the interests of others. He takes his cue from Jesus, saying that we should have the mind of Christ.

Paul then explains the humility of Christ, how he humbled himself by laying aside the majesty and glory of heaven, not considering equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself and took the form of a servant. As if the incarnation, taking on a human form and subjecting himself to the very processes of growing up that he designed wasn't enough, he was humble and obedient even to the point of death. Jesus Christ, whom John writes as having life in him, allowed himself to be murdered by those he was saving. How humble and loving! God then exalts Jesus, giving Him the name that is above all names.

It is before Jesus that every knee must bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord. It is our destiny to be humbled. We can do it by faith now, or we will be humbled when He returns.

#### Discussion

- >>What is the most humble act ever performed?
- >>What is the value of man?
- >>What is the yardstick against which the value of everything is to be measured?

#### Explanation

- >>How does Jesus' incarnation teach us about humility?
- >>What is the ultimate result of Jesus' humility?
- >>What is the difference between humility and false humility?

#### Application

- >>How have we failed to take into account the immeasurable value of God in our worldview?
- >>In what way should you humble yourself?
- >>How can we empty ourselves of things that we would otherwise grasp onto?
- >>What would it look like for you to take the form of a servant or even to consider others better than ourselves?