

Philippians 2:1-11

Outline for Congregation

A Humble Mind (vv1-5)

- Philippians 4:8 “... think about these things” – contrast to thoughts that arise from rivalry and conceit (Phil. 2:3)
- Thinking God’s thoughts after Him – letting our minds be shaped by God
- We are to be united by having one mind (Phil. 2:2) – a mind “that is yours in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5)

Humiliation (vv6-8)

- In the form of God
- Did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped
- Made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant
- born in the likeness of men, in human form
- obedience to death
- *even* death on a cross

Exaltation (vv9-11)

- vindication – God and His ways are right!
- Jesus Christ is Lord – subversive to all forms of earthly power (Pharaohs, Caesars, Kings, Prime Ministers and Presidents)

Questions for reflection:

1. Where do you see problems in our world that come as a result of rivalry and conceit?
2. As you consider your own actions – what kinds of things motivate you? Under what circumstances do you act in the interest of others, even if it is sacrificial? When do you make decisions to do things that benefit you even if it is at the expense of others?
3. Of the various ways we learn that Jesus humbled himself, what strikes you most? His entering into our world? His taking the form of a servant/slave? His obedience? His willingness to die? His death on the cross?
4. How does one grow in humility? If you want to be more humble, how do you do it?
5. Gordon Fee writes: “The Philippians – and we ourselves - are not called upon simply to ‘imitate’ God by what we do, but we are to have this very mind, the mind of Christ, developed in us, so that we too bear God’s image in our attitudes and relationships within the Christian community – and beyond.” Reflect on this and consider what has shaped your mind and where your mind needs to be re-shaped.
6. What are some implications of the fact that Jesus has been exalted to the highest place (so there will never be any greater than he)? What does this mean for our world? What does this mean for you?