Phil 2 HUMILITY Sermon

Trinity Church

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Welcome to Church! The place where we get to encounter the living God in community. A place and people of healing, wholeness, and light in the world. Because Jesus, the light, has shined in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome him. AMEN.

Let’s pray for God to reveal himself to us and make us more like him this morning!

PRAY – openness, yieldedness and humility.

This light in the darkness and hope in uncertainty is exactly what Paul calls the church at Philippi to, and we are stepping into that today. In the midst of political tension, chaos and worldly despair we have a true foundation to build our lives on. We are not lost, and there is a path forward in healthy engagement with the broken world around us.

Recap this series – the election coming up in 2 weeks and so much seemingly hanging in the balance we know where hope lies. The last two weeks have shown us this in Philippians

Week 1: As Christians we acknowledge the limitations of government. Human made governments cannot save our soul or make our hearts whole. Jesus saves.

Week 2: We are one in Christ. Only Christ can make one out of the many. Jesus is above all.

Last week was powerful for us to consider. Is Jesus above all, and have we fully accepted his invitation to be in the family of God?? I continue to want to surrender more to his ways and his nature. If we say yes to being part of the family, the natural next question arises….

What is the family culture???!!!

**27**Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%201&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29389e)] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

Paul is calling us to a way of life – a life worthy of the Gospel. This sections centers on Christ as the prime example of a Godly ambassador in a sinful / broken land. The phrase “to be worthy of the Gospel” is translated from the Greek word “politeuesthe”. The word describes one who behaves like citizens of the Gospel. A modern way to approach this text might be this. Do you look, joke and behave American, or do you look, joke and behave “Gospel”? When we become Christian, we become foreigners, immigrants, and ambassadors to the cities that we abide in.

The world has always needed the church to live out the culture we are called to. The Jesus way. “The Way.” This is described in Philippians ch. 2 and we are going to sit in the Word this morning.

v. 1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2**then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

You have been invited into family…. A family that actually transforms and is unified in Christ Jesus.

What is the family culture, how do we exude the family culture today, and will we embrace this counter cultural ambassador way of life?

Family culture illustration 🡪 Mom who tells her kids something and doesn’t do it, v. the Mom who lives it?? What was your family culture? Paul shows Christ as the family example, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says “follow me as I follow Christ.”

So, what is the culture we carry to the broken world around us?? WE LOOK to JESUS. The rest of this morning try and focus on how Jesus lives and that’s the culture we take with us.

We study Scripture in context and make observations of the original author’s intent.

Rome didn’t mind people practicing other religions as long as the politicians and their positions of power weren’t threatened. Christians frustrated Romans in two primary ways. They declared Jesus as Lord instead of Caesar and constantly challenged their ethics.

**3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**6**Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philipians%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God,
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
**7**rather, he made himself nothing
    by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philipians%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant,
    being made in human likeness.
**8**And being found in appearance as a man,
    he humbled himself

Paul writing to a city flush with retired military personal and specifically called the Church in the city of Philippi to a culture they are called to unify around. This Kingdom culture in Philippians 2 can be summed up in one word: Humility.

Humility has become a bit of buzz word in our society. So it’s important to define it before we go any further into what Paul means by it and how we live it. \*Section title of Bible\*

“Humility Way”, maybe should call it Humility avenue ☺ but way will work.

The banner over ‘Humility Way’ would read. “In your relationships with one another have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”

There would be two guardrails on the road, high view of self and low view of self.

1. High view of self – explicit arrogance, self-sufficiency, and thinking I’m too good to do things. We would all typically call this out as Pride. You know people like this and they are easy to identify.
2. Low view of self – inadequacy, shame, victim mentality, or not thinking I’m good enough to do things. Though it’s not as clear this is Pride too. You all know people like this as well.

Both guardrails protect against a SELF-FOCUS. Looking to your own interests, selfish in always putting YOU at the center of decision making, and using situations to your own advantage. Tim Keller, C.S. Lewis, Rick Warren, Jennie Allen and many others have written on this topic. “Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”

Underclassmen College AJ Illustration

-Came in very high view of self. I thought I was God’s gift to Indiana Wesleyan and the world.

-I didn’t actually become humble, I swerved over the other guardrail of Humility Way into low view of self.

Humility Way is GOSPEL Humility, and to understand that we need to talk about two theological truths that Paul clarifies as we continue to study Philippians 2.

Incarnation and Atonement.

Just two easy and quick theology topics hahah. Of course we won’t get to cover these extensively, and there is further study in my notes, but if the way we are to walk is same as “CHRIST JESUS” then we have to talk about incarnation and atonement.

Incarnation: Jesus is THE great ambassador for the kingdom. — the incarnation. He sojourned from his heavenly dwelling. He came into the neighborhood, wrapping himself in human flesh.

6 Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philipians%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God,
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
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    being made in human likeness.
**8**And being found in appearance as a man,

Jesus revealed God as God to the world. Fully God and Fully Human in natures, but one in person of the God-Man. This is the picture of humility because he took on flesh. The interpretation made “himself of no reputation”[[1]](#footnote-1) is a bit more accurate that Jesus knew exactly who he was as divine but didn’t use that for his gain, instead manifested in flesh taking in our nature to heal it.

Atonement: Jesus in humility not only manifested in flesh and lived a human life for us, but also was willing to die as a sacrificial atonement for our reconciliation with God.

   v. 8b  he humbled himself
    by becoming obedient to death—
        even death on a cross!

When we talk about humility it is paramount to show that Jesus wasn’t punished or his life wasn’t taken from him as he stood by passively… John 10:18 **18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Our Lord Jesus had every power and authority as the second person of the Trinity. He could have called legions of angels, stopped all of Rome and the Jewish leaders in an instant. Humility is power used rightly. ALL the authority and not used for himself.

 But his sacrificial act of laying his life down, humbling himself to die a death on the cross is the reason we worship today and the reason my life is changed and so is yours if you have surrendered to him.

The call from the text is to Humility Way, not a passive, I don’t have that much to offer and I’ll just stand back and see what happens. And also not a I can do it myself and don’t need any help get out of the way. It’s whatever power, influence or authority you have, use it as Jesus did… for other people’s flourishing.

The invitation is to the family culture of Humility Way that Jesus modeled and made possible for us to replicate in our day, in Indy in 2024 even with an election and pride of high view and low view ALL around us.

True humility seeks to bring glory and honor to God and looks out for the interests of others. BOTH!! -Not just what someone interest is, but what’s actually best for them.

Paul does not ask them to abandon or leave the tension but rightly engage. Right engagement is a confidence in following Jesus’ way of humility above all else.

Do you know why we can choose humility because we know what will happen. Jesus will have the final say, and we humbly say to God “WE NEED YOU.”

**9**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
    and gave him the name that is above every name,
**10**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
**11**and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
    to the glory of God the Father.

I want to close today with Romans 8:28-29 -- Conform to the Family image. Pauls’ letter to the same people who needed a way forward as Philippi.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Humility isn’t a just what, it’s a who. Jesus is to who every knee will bow because he is the humble king, not a God who forces and manipulates. Will we conform, yield and surrender to be like our humble king?

I’m asking if you will submit and conform every area to Jesus. Every political area and every perspective. To walk with a humble confidence as God’s ambassadors to a world that needs direction! Humility = grateful, confident, dependent, serving, and for God’s glory.

If we embrace this way, we can help the world navigate, we can help political parties navigate and we can be the ambassadors Jesus calls us to be. Because Paul finishes with this:

**15**so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philipians%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29407c)] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

Stars were used as navigation in the day of Jesus and he calls us to help people navigate. The only way to do that is if we humble ourselves and look to the one who made the way.

NEXT STEPS:
Which one of these areas of Humility do you need to embrace?

Humility = grateful, confident, dependent, serving, and for God’s glory.

1. Restoration Translation New Testament [↑](#footnote-ref-1)