

Reflection Questions: Philippians 2:1-11

For the message, "Imitating Christ's Humility" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 13, 2022

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 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 selfish ambition 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 emptied himself, by 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.

Let's get started...

- Focusing in on verses 1-4, what grabs your attention? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In verses 1-2, the Apostle Paul describes how he longs for this young community of Jesus' followers to be united in their thinking and in their love for one another. Why do you think this man who is in chains for Christ wants this so deeply for them? Why would this "complete" his joy?
 - To put it another way, Why is the lack of unity in their thinking and in their love a clear and present threat to the gospel?
- In verse 3, we're told to "do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." How does this encourage you, concern you, challenge you, inspire you? Or does it feel impossible to actually do this in your life?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Paul says that the key to being able to do what he calls them (and us) to do is humility (vs. 3). It's having the mind / mindset of Jesus (vs. 5) who humbled himself and counted our lives with him as more significant than his own. Why is humility so essential to our lives as followers of Jesus, and essential to our life together as a community of Jesus followers.
- To put it another way, what happens when humility is lacking in a community of faith?
- What are some ways we can encourage one another in the pursuit of Christ-like humility? How can we spur one another on in prizing humility in our lives?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does unity in our thinking and in our love for one another serve to advance the gospel in our city? In other words, how does humility adorn the gospel of Jesus?
- How might this passage (verses 1-4) serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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