

Humility, the Glue of Unity

Philippians 2:1-11

Phil. 2:1-11 is believed to include a primitive Christian creed repeated or hymn sung in the 1st churches. Vss. 5-8 are sometimes called the Christ Hymn. The text does more than praise Christ's deliberate, chosen stance of humility. It pleads with us to do the same.

Paul wrote Philippians while in prison. Certain teachers and preachers sought to use Paul's incarceration to create factions and discord in the churches. So, Paul's plea for us to choose humility is first an appeal for unity in the church. He knew that a church cannot effectively advance the gospel without unity.

Humility is the glue that holds unity together. This text both defines it and illustrates what humility is. Humility is the opposite of selfish ambition and vain conceit. But humility isn't "having low self-esteem" or an "inferiority complex." It is deliberately elevating the importance of others.

In fact, a negative self-image is actually the source of much conflict and disunity. A person who tends to disrupt the unity of any organization is likely a person struggling with an underlying, often unconscious, inferiority complex.

The perfect illustration of humility is Jesus. He emptied Himself of that status and privileges of His divine nature, chose to live as a human and die on the cross. He did it because He valued us so much. He could do it because He knew exactly who He was-God the Son-the One who would bear the name above every name...the name that would one day invoke the exclamation of praise from every living thing: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Humility is attainable for us, but we must know who we are. You are someone for whom Jesus valued enough to die and invite into His kingdom. You are a child of the King. Know that, and you will find yourself able to possess the humility that Jesus exemplifies and longs for in your life.