

Philippians 2:1-11

Live in harmony and humility with one another

(The People's Bible, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, pages 37-52)

Look

- Verse 1 *“If you have any encouragement . . . comfort . . . fellowship . . . tenderness and compassion”*—Paul uses an evangelical appeal with the expected answer, “Yes, of course we do.”
- Verse 6 *“Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped”*—Though Jesus Christ was and is God, equal to the Father in glory and majesty, he willingly set aside that majesty and glory. Rather than “grasping” it, he let go of it.
- Verse 9 *“God exalted [Christ].”* In his exalted state (beginning with his resurrection and continuing for all eternity), God exalted his Son so that Jesus now completely employs the fullness of his deity at all times.

Discuss

1. What comes from being united with Christ, being comforted by his love, and enjoying fellowship with the Spirit?
2. What example of humility did Paul place before the Philippians?
3. Trace the path Jesus walked to win our salvation. This was a humble path on which Jesus sought our good, not his own.

Apply

4. If the attitudes Paul describes in verses 1-4 are missing, what can happen in a Christian home? a Christian congregation? a Christian friendship?
5. How does verse 11 describe one way in which God is glorified in our lives?

Paul reminded the Philippians of the spiritual blessings they had received in Christ and then reminded them of Christ's humility, which won our salvation. These blessings guide and motivate Christians in their lives together.