



What Matters Most

KINDNESS

Philippians 2:1-11

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.

Discussion Questions:

Outline:

What are the Components of Kindness? (Phil. 2:1-2)

1. Encouragement (in Christ)
2. Love (from the Father)
3. Participation (in the Spirit)
4. Affection (tenderness)
5. Sympathy (compassion)
6. Unity (same mind/love)

Empty Glory Compared to the Glory of God (Phil. 2:3-11)

1. Empty Glory - *kenodoxian* (3a)
2. The right attitudes (3b-4)
3. The Manual (5-8)
4. The Glory of God - *doxa* - majesty/renown (9-11)

1. Read the six components of kindness as a group. Which one of the components do you think you need to work on? Is there one you really see as a virtue God uses in your life to impact the people around you?
2. The word translated conceit means "empty glory." What are the differences between conceit and humility? Use Philippians 2:3-4 to help you discuss this question.
3. Read Philippians 2:6-7. What did Jesus give up to come to earth? Discuss. Before his days on earth, Jesus enjoyed complete equality with the Father (Jn 1:1-2, 14). Even in human form his essential nature remained unchanged; he was still God (Jn 5:18). Yet he voluntarily laid aside the privileges and glory of heaven and humbled himself by *being made in human likeness* in order to take away the sins of the world.¹
4. Read Philippians 2:11. Will every person eventually be saved? Discuss. Even though God will bring unity to all things ... under Christ (Eph 1:10), not all people will be saved. Some will go away to eternal punishment (Mt 25:46) because they belong to [their] father, the devil (Jn 8:44). Those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel ... will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord (2Th 1:8-9). What this passage teaches is that all will eventually recognize and confess Christ's lordship. It will be too late for salvation however.¹

¹Questions and explanations taken from the NIV Quest Study Bible