

“JOYFUL IN UNITY”
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

The joy of unity is found in the pursuit humility.

After planting the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40), Paul now writes to them ten years later from Roman imprisonment. Amazingly, he is not discouraged but joyful! In fact, the word “joy” appears fourteen times in these four short chapters. *In this passage, Paul is calling the Philippians, and the church today, to the joy of unity (vv. 1-4) because of the ultimate example of Christ’s humility (vv. 5-11). In this landmark passage, Paul is using profound theology for practical living.*

APPLYING THE WORD

Read Philippians 2:1-11 aloud and pray that the Lord will apply this passage to your group.

Introductory Question: What’s your honest and immediate reaction to the word “humility”?

The Joy of Fostering Gospel Unity Together (vv. 1-4)

- How do these verses practically define the word “humility” for us as a gospel community (vv. 1-4)?
- Where do you need the gospel to move you from self-centeredness to others-centeredness (vv. 1-2)?
- Practically, in what ways is pursuing humility a blessing to those around you in your daily life (vv. 3-4)?

The Joy of Following Christ in Humility Together (vv. 5-11)

- Why is it critical for us to have both the command for humility and Christ’s example of humility (v. 5)?
- What about the humility of Christ, the Suffering Servant, moves you to love and trust Him more (vv. 6-8)?
- Like our Savior, what would happen in our hearts and lives if we pursued humility for the glory of God and the good of others and not for what we would get from God and others (vv. 9-11)?

PRAYING THE WORD

Philippians 2:1-11 prompts us to pray for unity (cf. John 17). As you pray this passage, consider asking someone to pray that our joy would not be found in our preferences but in pursuing gospel unity (vv. 1-2). Ask someone else to pray that we would be a people who humbly seek the interests of others above our own (vv. 3-4). Finally, ask someone to praise the Father for the stunning blessing and reality of Christ humbling Himself to save us from our sins (vv. 5-11).

STAYING IN THE STORY

Day 1	The joy of gospel community (vv. 1-2; Romans 12:9-21)
Day 2	Jesus teaches humility by calling us to serve (vv. 3-4; Mark 10:32-45)
Day 3	Jesus models humility by serving us (v. 5; John 13:1-20)
Day 4	Jesus is the Incarnate Word, full of grace and truth (vv. 6-8; John 1:1-18)
Day 5	Jesus is the Lord of Creation and Redemption (vv. 9-11; Isaiah 45:14-25)