

Week 4 Philippians 2.1-4, 2.5-11

Unity in Everything

The Mind of the Messiah

- I. Prayer
- II. Opening Question
 - a. Think about good leaders you have known as well as figures from history. What are the marks of a good leader?
- III. Read N.T. Wright Commentary p.97-104
- IV. Scan Aesthetic Commentary p.67-105
- V. Discussion Questions
 - a. What do “cheap grace” and “cheap unity” require of an individual? What is the outcome of cheap grace and cheap unity for a congregation or Christian group?
 - b. God’s saving grace is costly—our freedom from sin was bought at a price (1 Corinthians 6—7). Reread the excerpts from Scripture included in this chapter. How costly is “unity with the mind of Christ” for you/for your congregation or Christian group?
 - c. What are some practical ways to regard others as more important than you are (2:3)?
 - d. Paul doesn’t say we should bring our thinking in line with each other. What instead is to be the center around which Christians unite?
 - e. How is Jesus now exalted (vv. 9-11)?
 - f. What is the connection between these two parts? Why should the Jesus who did what verses 6-8 say he did be honored in this way?
 - g. Compare the attitude of Christ in this passage with the typical attitude of worldly leaders.
 - h. How does your perspective on the world change when you consider that *every knee* shall bow and *every tongue* confess that Jesus is Lord (vv. 10-11)?
 - i. How does this poem fit with and emphasize what Paul said in the first part of Philippians 2?
 - j. Carefully reread Philippians 2.5-11. What difference does Paul suggest the humiliation and exultation of Jesus can make in your life?
 - k. Some people argue that if Jesus Christ was truly God, there are things about him no mere human should be expected to imitate. How would Paul respond? How would you respond?
 - l. If you began to “empty yourself of all but love,” what would be some of the first things that would have to go? What would be the hardest things for you to release?
 - m. Do you think it would be easier to express true humility in your life if people closest to you were attempting to live this way as well? Why? What does this tell you about communities of Christ followers?
 - n. What does it mean to you that Jesus needed to die to free you from the power of sin? What does it mean to you that Jesus gladly did this? What specific difference does this belief make in your daily life?
 - o. What other “gods” compete with Jesus Christ in your life? What could help/has helped you reject these “little gods” and be more completely focused on Jesus Christ as your one and only Lord?