

Descending into Greatness

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ 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.¹

In Philippians 1:27-2:18, Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to maintain unity. The overarching command for this section is found in 1:27, “. . . *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel . . .*” In 2:1-4, he explains the basis of unity. In 2:5-11, he uses the life of Christ as an illustration of that basis. In 2:12-18, he then clarified the believers’ responsibility.

Paul’s emphasis in 2:5-11 is that rather than demand our way, we are to be humble and serve like Christ, and then wait for God to promote us in his time.

Command: We are to live like Christ (5).

Illustration: We are to be humble and serve like Christ (6-8).

Illustration: We are to wait for God to promote us in his time (9-11).

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.