



WHATEVER HAPPENS! "Stay Humble" Philippians 2:1-11

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In Greek culture, slaves were by definition "humble" because of their status and freemen, for the same reason, had no need of humility. For Christians, however, "humility" before God is an absolute necessity. This clash between Christ and culture exists today.

I. An Explanation: Why Humility Is Necessary. v. 1

- A. Unity in the body of believers is to be expected:
 1. Because we claim to be "united with Christ."
 2. Because we say we have been comforted by His love.
 3. Because we testify to "fellowship with the Spirit."
 4. Because we have been moved by "tenderness and compassion."
- B. Unity can never be achieved and maintained without humility.

II. An Exhortation: What to Do About Humility. vv. 2-5

- A. The Philippians brought Paul joy (1:3-4), but it was not "complete."
- B. They lacked the humility that was necessary for unity.
- C. So he exhorted them:
 1. Concentrate on like-mindedness.
 - "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."
 2. Foster mutually loving relations.
 3. Develop common motivation: "spirit and purpose."
 4. Banish "self ambition" and "vain conceit."
 5. Balance legitimate self-interest with "the interests of others".
 6. Emulate the example of the Lord Jesus: the epitome of humility.

III. An Example: What Genuine Humility Looks Like. vv. 6-11

- A. Reflecting on the example.
 1. Christ "in very nature, God", did not hold onto what was His by right.
 2. Christ "emptied" Himself and assumed servanthood.
 3. Christ, the author of life, willingly accepted death—crucifixion!
 4. Christ, having humbled himself, is exalted by God.
- B. Emulating the example.
 1. Beware of turf battles.
 2. Look for ways to serve, not to be served.
 3. Dare to submit to what you fear when you know it's God's will.
 4. Remember, God resists the proud and exalts the humble.

Point to Ponder: Is there any lack of humility on my part that is causing disunity?