



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

The Hymn of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

1. Read our passage for this week, **Philippians 2:1-11** - Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This passage begins with the word "Therefore". This means that what Paul is about to write ties back to his challenges to the church in Chapter 1. Considering your group's previous discussions about Chapter 1, what points stand out to you as you read these verses?
2. In verses 1-4, Paul tells the Church to do the hard work of creating unity and building relationships with one another. What personal plea does Paul state for why they should do this (v1-2)? Why should believers take personal ownership of this challenging task? What are you personally willing to do to achieve this kind of unity within our church?

3. In verses 5-8, the Apostle tells the Philippians, and us by extension, that they are to strive to live life from a Christ-centered perspective. We are to follow the example of Jesus in the way He gave up the advantages He had as God came to serve. Take some time to discuss some of the specifics about Jesus' attitude from this passage. What are your personal experiences in seeing this perspective/attitude lived out in someone's life? How would you rate your progress in living in this way?

4. Jesus is exalted by God because of His sacrifice for us. Yet, during his suffering, He sensed separation from His Father (read Matthew 27:46). There is an element of patience that we must have as we trust God to fulfill His promises to us as we go through persecution. What is the challenge of patiently waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises to us?

5. Verses 6-11 is often called "The Hymn of Christ". Stop at this point and have someone pray that God will speak to each of you through these words, then read these verses again as a group. As you do so, evaluate your own life in light of Christ's example. **"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** What is one way in which you can strive to live more in Jesus' example than you may be right now? Share this with your group and then plan a practical way to keep one another accountable for the progress.