

# Adult Bible Discovery- September 27, 2020

## For Starters:

*Perhaps you have been fortunate to be a part of a sports team, community group, planning team or other organization marked by unusual camaraderie and a deep sense of oneness. What are some factors that brought unity to this group? What were the benefits you witnessed as a result?*

Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi with thanksgiving but he has also come to understand that there has been some disharmony among the members of the congregation and that this could serve to disrupt the spread of the gospel message. In chapter two, Paul begins to address these concerns by pointing out some of the qualities that make for a harmonious and unified community—one that imitates the example and humility of Christ.

## Read Philippians 2:1-11

Some Greek scholars believe the “**if**” in verse one should be translated as “since” and while it can be, perhaps we should retain the “**if-fy**” translation. After all, can you imagine ANY Christians answering Paul with, “nope; ain’t got any encouragement from Christ, no comfort from His love, doing have fellowship with the Spirit nor do I possess an ounce of tenderness or a teaspoon of compassion.” Obviously EVERY Christian, even the most immature, even those who are still on “milk” (I Cor. 3:2) would confess to having at least some encouragement, a bit of comfort, possessing a portion of tenderness and compassion from fellowship with the Spirit.

Therefore, as one who to some extent has these benefits, shall we call it Christian privilege, the natural result would be to embrace a life free of selfish ambition and vain conceit. Even the most mature Christian, those ready for meat (well done and tough to chew at that) (I Cor. 3:3) would confess to having at least sometimes been motivated by selfish ambition and on occasion possessing a pinch of vain conceit and thus having failed to consider others better than self.

- *Why do you think Paul said his joy would be complete if believers acted in this manner?*
- *How can you tell if you are being motivated by selfish ambition or vain conceit?*
- *Why is it so often hard to put the needs and interests of others ahead of our own?*
- *As a nation we cherish individualism and autonomy, and on the one hand we would probably say rightly so; how are the ideals of autonomy and individuals at the same time counterproductive to what God is doing in and through His body the church?*
- *What is Paul asking us to do when he asks us to have the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus?*
- *Where are your attitudes and actions most in line with a Christ like attitude? Where are they most at odds with a Christ like attitude?*

Christ the Creator, he who calls each star by name and who was the Word spoken that brought forth Creation, He by whom all things were made, and without him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3) the one who made ALL THINGS has made Himself NOTHING! The incarnate God – the one who entered time and space and creation as a part thereof, is by nature the God outside of time and space and the created order. In Christ, God knew hunger and thirst. In Christ, God experienced sorrow and want. In Christ, God was weak, and lonely; in Christ God experienced being heartbroken and sick to his stomach. His tears over Jerusalem as real as ours over Washington and His frustration at foolishness as real as ours at the same; He took on the nature of a servant! He came not to demand our allegiance but to grant us His steadfast love. He refused to throw his weight around, so to speak, and divested Himself of divine advantage; so that in Him, through Him, and on account of Him we might receive access to the divine.

- *Servanthood requires no training or aptitude. So, why is it so hard?*
- *How would the atmosphere in our nation and congregation change if it will filled with humble servants who fought not for their own benefit but that of others?*
- *Jesus humbly became obedient to death, because we have failed to be humble; having received the gift of His sacrifice what sacrifice ought we seek to make?*

**Prayer:** *Father, you have given us all we need to be a jaw-dropping faith community. We are in Christ and Christ is within us. May we be bearers of His comfort and love for our neighbors. May we share live with those in our communities who need it. Send Your Holy Spirit to us to helps us let go of our selfish desires and be united in humility for your purposes. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*