



## SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – January 21, 2024

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**Sermon Series:** Authentic: Real Life in Christ, Inside & Out  
**Sermon Title:** Camino Real  
**Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-11  
**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

**Theme/Concept:** Church unity is difficult and takes servant-hearted sacrifice. However, Christ came as a servant, giving up privilege and glory for the sake of others – and we should follow his example.

**Icebreaker:** (if with a small group) Who, in your life, has been the most vivid example of humility?

**Reflections on the sermon:** What did you learn from the sermon about ways you can strive towards unity in the church?

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-11 (New International Version)

**2** 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, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **Reviewing the Scripture:**

1. What did Paul say would make his joy complete? How were the Philippians to accomplish this? (Verses 1-2) How is this exhortation repeated in Scripture? (See, for example, Romans 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 4:1-6)
2. What do you think it means in verse 2 to have the 'same' love for others? What relation might this have to the love that Jesus has shown us?
3. What admonition did Paul give in verse 3? What instructions did Paul give regarding humility? (Verses 3-4)
4. How are we to consider the interests of others and ourselves? (Verse 4) Can you give an example of what that might look like?
5. How did Paul affirm that Jesus has eternally been God? (Verses 6-7)
6. How did Paul say that Jesus humbled himself? (Verses 5-8)
7. What honor and glory did God bestow on Jesus as a result of His obedience? (Verses 9-11)

**Going deeper:**

1. Why did Jesus take on the limitations of being human even though he was of the same nature as God?
2. What does it mean to be like minded with the church body when there are many issues that threaten to divide us?
3. How can Christians show their unity in Christ in practical ways within their family, church, community, school or work situations?
4. Do you think of humility in a positive way, as being a virtue, or do you see it negatively as being humiliation? Why? How is it a strength?
5. How can your heart and your actions show the kind of humility that Paul is talking about in a business, school or family setting?
6. What are some ways that you can take the nature of a servant in your family, church, community, school or work settings this coming week and put other's first?

**Personal Reflection:**

1. Is there any relationship in your life where you have counted yourself as more significant than another person? What is one step you can take to show the love that Paul speaks about?
2. Do you tend to struggle with selfishness? What can you do this week to put others first?

**Closing prayer:**

Dear Lord-

Thank you for giving us your Word to speak to us, to guide us and to instruct us how to live. Help us to take to heart Paul's instructions to the church in Philippi for unity. Help us to be like-minded and to show love to others as you have loved all of us before we loved you. Help us to have the kind of humility that Paul speaks about and by our words and our actions, we pray that your Holy Spirit will work through us to encourage others to know you and have faith in you.

In Jesus name, AMEN