

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

# A HUMBLE GIFT

Phil deMartimprey

Philippians 2:1-8

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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**CONTEXT:** The church at Philippi was the result of the special call which God gave to Paul in Acts 16.

They appear to have been wealthy, and they were the only church to financially support Paul, at least in the early days of his ministry (see Phil. 4:15-19 and 2 Cor. 11:9).

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO BE A "BOND-SLAVE"?**

Look at Phil. 1:1. Your translation may use the word "servant", but that does not carry the true meaning of the word "slave" that Paul used.

One commentator describes the word as: "...one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other"<sup>1</sup>

So: What does God expect of me?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF ME:**

Keeping in mind the anchor statement in Phil 2:5, what does Phil 2:1-4 say about the attitudes God wants me to have?

There are at least eight items. List these and discuss them.

Do I really have a slave's attitude?

Oh, and who's slave am I to be?

What might get in the way of thinking that way?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: JESUS CHRIST'S EXAMPLE:**

Read Phil. 2:5-8.

Keeping in mind that the word "form" does not refer to superficial appearances, note the two times that word is used here.

What is being stated about Jesus' Deity and about His Humanity?

Discuss the very idea of God the Creator showing humility!

How does this fit with the description that God is Love?

(1 John 4:8 and 16)

In what ways does God want me to act with humility?

What is the difference between changing the way I act, and changing my internal attitudes.

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<sup>1</sup> Zodhiates, S. 2000, c1992, c1993. *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.) (G1401). AMG Publishers: Chattanooga, TN

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♦ **CHALLENGE:**

**So: We know what God wants. How do we get there?**

**In America we are very aware of our "rights". As followers of Christ, how should we deal with these?**

♦ **PRAYER:**

**Let us be faithful in praying for our leaders, missionaries and fellow believers.**

**John and Bobbi Pearson are back from Spain, living in the USA now, and are looking to God for His next assignment.**

**The Ingvoidstads and Binders are with the Tagbanwa people:**

- **Ingvoidstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?**
- **Pray for their health. Ingvoidstads are still having health problems.**
- **How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?**
- **Pray for the selection and growth of Tagbanwan Elders.**
- **Pray for the transitions that will be required.**