

A Humble Gift
Philippians 2:1-8
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“God desires Humility in the lives of His Children”

- **I’m terribly hard to buy for. I tend to buy what I need. Mom, anne, in-laws all know this. But the quest for the perfect gift is one we all are on during this season. When we get it. You know it.**
 - **Green Dolphin street.**
 - Background of Philippians
 - Acts 16: Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia Crying “Come and Help us”
 - Immediately he went to macedonia, greece.
 - Philippi was the first place he stopped and the first church he planted on this trip.
 - The Epistle or letter was written by Paul to the church in Philippi
 - One primary theme was an encouragement to humility in the church
 - They were a wealthy church, in a wealthy city.
 - Not too hard to imagine that it is a very difficult thing for those with much material goods to remain humble. Wealth/success brings power, influence, authority, respect. These all fight against humility.
 - Nonetheless, Paul Overall pleased and has a confident hope that God will continue to work.
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- **Read 2:1-8**
 - **Paul Requests a Gift : Read Phil 2:1-5**
 - Exegesis. Illustrate.
 - Not questioning these things (vs1) Rhetorical question
 - Could even say “since” (1:5-6, Thankful for their participation in what God is doing, and confident that God will carry it out)
 - **vs 2a Hinge Point: Paul’s wish list has one thing.**
 - **They would complete his joy by being unified through humility.**
 - **Vs 2b: How? Exhortation to unity that can only come through humility**
 - Same Mind
 - Same Love
 - United in Spirit
 - One purpose or mindset
 - **This Unity Can only be achieved by the next statements. (See vs 3-4)**
 - By Do nothing from selfishness/empty conceit

- By Having a humble mind
 - By regarding one another as more important than oneself.
 - By not just looking out for your own interest but
 - By Regarding others as more important than yourselves.
- **Paul Is Describing a mindset, way of living. Does not give specific examples, rather points to back Christ (see vs 5)**
 - This is the attitude found in Christ!
 - Paul is pointing them straight to Christ and the attitude He had at His incarnation.
 - We know Paul had this mindset, even sets the stage from 1:1. Doulos. Him and Timothy, but he doesn't point to himself here.
 - The greatest example Paul could ever refer to.
 - The Greatest Gift ever Given.
- **Paul Describes a Gift: Read 2:6-8**
 - You want to talk about getting the perfect gift.
 - Paul wanted an example of humility, look no further than the gift of Christ.
 - **Paul knew God desired Humility in the lives of His children, so he points them to Christ.**
 - **He desires Christ like humility in them!**
 - Lets look at the description of this gift.
 - **Vs 6:**
 - **Form of God** (much debate as to what this means)
 - Word "form" means the outward expression containing all the essence.
 - All that is divine in nature dwelt in Christ.
 - **We have seen in Mark:**
 - What Claim gets Jesus in the most trouble?
 - **Didn't regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.**
 - To be grasped, is an unusual word that actually means to steal or take as a prize. And in this context mean that though Christ had the very essence of God, he did not regard all the divine glory and power and nature a thing to be held up as a prize.
 - So instead of holding his divine nature up for all to see he...vs7
 - **Vs 7:**
 - **emptied himself by taking the form** (nature/essence) of a **bondservant and being made in the likeness of man.**

- Not emptied of the divine, certainly couldn't do that. But rather in taking on servant hood and humanity emptied himself of His due glory and majesty.
- **Illustrate: President Clyde Cook**
 - Missionary Kid
 - Phenomenal Basketball player
 - Bachelors, 2 Masters and Doctorate.
 - President of Biola from 1982-2007
 - One sunday night a year, he would put on an apron and carve the turkey.
 - Would serve the students.
- Loved to serve. (still the same guy)
- Eternal God Creator emptied himself and came to earth as a servant.
 - You would expect the angels!
 - **Read Luke 2:8-13**
 - Angels Yes. Manger No.
 - Talk about humble
- **Taking the nature of a servant.**
 - **To whom? To his Father.**
 - **John 6:38- "For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me."**
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 - **His Father asked Him to serve others. One of the most distinct pictures we have is in John.**
 - **Read John 13:3-5**
 - God who created and invented water is using it to wash the dirty feet of his friends.
 - **God desires humility in the lives of his children. A servant's attitude toward Him, and toward others.**
- **Vs 8:**
 - **Appearance of a man.**
 - Just looked like one? Wasn't actually one?
 - No, looked like any other man. Nothing special. A simple man.
 - Seen this in Mark
 - Tired, hungry, thirsty, angry, surprised, afraid
 - Looks like everyone else.
 - **Dr. Cook.** If you didn't know who it was, you would think it was just a worker carving a turkey. Not someone important.
 - We have seen this God/Man tension so clearly in our study of Mark have we not?
 - His disciples have struggled to understand.
 - Looks like us, talks like us, get hungry, tired, angry etc

- But at the same time, he is certainly not like us.
 - Who is this man whom the wind and sea obey?
 - **We can see what He has emptied himself of to take on Humanity.**
 - The Ultimate humility. Death. God is not supposed to die.
 - **John 10:18- No one takes it. He lays it down.**
 - **Not just any death. The most humiliating death on a cross.**
 - **In a word he could have taken it all back up. But he didn't.**
 - **What humility.**
 - **Why? Why would he go to all this.**
 - **True Light come into the Darkness**
 - **It was the ONLY way**
- **Christ Offers a gift.**
 - It was the only way for us to enjoy eternity with God.
 - His death paid the penalty for our sins and makes a way for us to have peace with God.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9 : For by Grace you have been saved through Faith, not of yourselves, it is a free gift.**
 - All you have to do is humble yourself. Admit you cannot save yourself and bow the knee to Christ placing your full faith in him.
- As this passage cries for us to pursue humility, we can easily see how pride will absolutely keep us from the saving gift of God's grace.
- **C.S. Lewis describes his conversion. As a prideful arrogant young man. I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England**
- **Further Application**
 - Not only is Humility absolutely vital in our relationship with God in Christ.
 - And truly that must be the center.
 - But it absolutely vital in relationship with each other.
 - You can trace every broken relationship to a common cause. PRIDE
 - One or more people thinking of themselves, and their desires as more important than the others.
- **Husbands:** we have a right to be respected. (Ephesians 5)
 - What happens when we aren't? Do we rise up and demand our rights.
 - I'm the man of this house. Hows that work out for us? Helpful?
 - What if we followed Christ's attitude in how we treat our wives? Regardless of how we are treated?

- **Wives:** you have a right to be cherished and loved by your husbands.
 - What happens when you aren't? Rise up and demand your rights?
 - Do you not see all that I do for you?! Just a little appreciation and love would be great! How's that working out for you?
 - Address our shortcomings from a position of humility. Regarding the other more important than ourselves.

- **As Parents? What do we show our kids?**
- Paul does point to your husband as the model to follow, nor your wife. But Christ.
 - See what Christ has done for you? Let that gratefulness be the motor

- **Humility is absolutely essential in our relationships as a church family.**
 - **Why Paul wrote this section!**
 - No way that Grace church can be known as a loving and Christlike church if pride runs wild through the seats.
 - If attending church is about my entertainments the whole point.

- **The Holy Spirit through God's word would remind us today that we should be interested in the interests of others.**
 - Those to your right and left, in front and behind.
 - Are you interested in them?
 - Their situations, God's work in their lives?
 - And How God would use your humble attitude to serve them?
 - Not every person. But some for sure!
 - One of the best places to develop these relationships is in a home group.
 - But don't limit yourself to your homegroup.

- **a good test would be in your prayer life. Where I see the biggest need in my life.**
 - What, or who do you pray the most for? Your needs, your hopes, plans?
 - Neglecting supplication? Worship? Intercession?
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- May this Christmas season and next year and truly every year be a year of growth in humility on our lives with Christ within our families, and without the Family of Grace.

