

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also
yours in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:5

Lectio Divina

Lectio

Take time with your lectio. Read the verse 3-5 times or more aloud slowly. Say each word carefully and let their sound resonate in the room.

Meditatio

What word or phrase stood out to you? Read the passage again. Is your attention still drawn to that word, or to another? Write your word(s) below.

Oratio

Use this space to journal about your word or phrase. What is God sharing with you? What images, phrases or experiences does it bring to your mind?

Contemplatio...

Engage

Just prior to this opening statement of the Christ hymn, Paul exhorts the community at Philippi to act with humility in all circumstances. In versus 3 and 4, which are the overture before the hymn and provide the lens through which Paul wishes the community to see it, Paul says:

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others (Phil 2:3-4)

Paul here is basically listing out the essentials for what it means to be a humble person, namely:

1. Do nothing out of selfishness or a desire to further your own status
2. Regard others as more important than yourself
3. Do not look out for your own interests first
4. Put the needs of others before your own

Since the hymn begins immediately after this “definition” if you will, humility then becomes the context for the hymn and is of particular importance when we consider verse 5.

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus (Phil 2:5)

Having the “attitude of Christ” as Paul says, is multi-layered. In other translations you might read this verse as having the same mind as Christ. It is an appeal to the Christian community to adopt or maintain the attitude or disposition of Christ. They should find the foundation of their community in Christ’s humility, His service and His sacrifice.

Humility, for Paul, is the basis for a Christological identity. If we are to become like Christ, we must discover what it means to be truly humble. And this humility Paul wants us to seek isn’t an *imitation* of Christ’s humility. No. Paul’s vision is that we become full and willing *participants* in Christ’s humility.¹³ To have

¹³ Brad Pitre. *Philippians 2: The Mind of Christ and the Secret of Joy*.

Youtube.com. 2016 January 18.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSrmS3bxOAk&t=293s>.

the same attitude or mind as Christ is to let our life be permeated with the same selflessness, love, mercy and humility that Christ's did.

You can see how Paul is setting up his audience. He gives them a preview of the theme and encouragement that it is something both desirable and achievable. We will be looking back at this context as we break open the hymn itself in the coming pages. This first verse is also critical because it shows us that Paul is not simply "downloading his theology into the Philippian church, it is Paul sharing what he knows to be nothing less than the mind of Christ."¹⁴

Paul wishes for us to discover the way to embody the entire Christ event, which is celebrated in the hymn.¹⁵ Christ's whole purpose and being is love and service. The reality of the Incarnation, as well as the reality of the Cross, is to become the reality of our daily life. Jesus is true God and true Man, the Savior of the world. This hymn is not just a simple song or hymn of praise. Rather, it a dramatic statement of conversion and belief about who God is and who His Son is.

¹⁴ Scott Hahn. *Epistle of Joy, Apostle of Joy: Overview of Philippians 2*. Youtube.com. 2016 January 18.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXYOHeGV_6s&t=1642s.

¹⁵ NAB footnotes

Internalize

**Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also
yours in Jesus Christ,**

Philippians 2:5

Slowly read the verse 3 times.

Cover the verse with a piece of paper and complete the following fill in the blank.

Have _____ yourselves the same _____

that is also _____ in _____ Christ,

Phil ___ :5

In the space below, re-write the verse 2-4 times. Keep the verse uncovered for at least the first writing. Then, challenge yourself to see if you can write it with the upper part of the page covered.