

CHAPTER 6A – HUMILITY AND SERVANTHOOD

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3–4, NIV)

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Philippians 2:1–11

The founder of a movement or organization sets a tone and creates an ethos that infects all who join and shapes all that follows. It is worth pondering that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was a general who directed armies, and Jesus, the founder of Christianity, was a teacher rejected by the Jews and crucified by the Romans. Please read Philippians 2:1–11, a passage about the qualities exhibited by Jesus.

1. There is an inner quality, a spiritual substance, that fills the soul of a mature Christian; it can infect a whole Christian community and those it touches. What words does Paul use to describe the way of life he desires for Christians (vv. 1–4)?

2. When and where have you seen and experienced this kind of healthy Christian community? What was it like? How did it affect you?

3. *Self-enhancement*, *self-authenticating*, and *self-development* are popular terms used to describe the contemporary idea of psychological health. What might the apostle Paul say to such ideas (v. 3)?

4. “Valuing others above yourself” (v. 3) may be an inspiring idea, but it is notoriously difficult to put into practice. Perhaps parents do this more than others. Why is this mode so difficult to maintain?

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5. Jesus is the example and model for what Paul is advocating (v. 5). According to Paul, who is Jesus and what is it that he has done (vv. 6–11)?

6. Jesus' surrendering of his heavenly status stands in stark contrast to Adam and Eve and the rest of humanity since then (v. 6). What might happen to your emotional health and mental well-being if that which made you feel important vanished tomorrow?

7. Is there a time in your life when you felt like a servant to others? What did it feel like, and how did it affect you?

8. What changes in your attitude need to happen for you to manifest the attitude of Jesus Christ in your everyday life and relationships?

9. According to Paul, the result of Jesus' humility was divine exaltation (vv. 9–11). What is his point?

10. What can you do to grow in humility? What can you do to be a servant to those around you this week?
