

The Book of Philippians | Chapter 2 - Follow Jesus' Example

Message Big Idea

We adopt the mindset of Christ when we follow his example of sacrificial love.

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-18

Points to Keep In Mind

1. The Church Paul is writing to was one he started during one of his missionary journeys. He's writing from prison to thank the people for the gifts they had sent to take care of their needs. He uses the letter-writing occasion to encourage them to stay firm in their allegiance to Jesus. Philippi was a Roman colony meaning the citizens of Philippi were expected to adopt the customs, values, and practices of the Roman Empire. They were called to allegiance to Caesar and adherence to the Roman way. So, in Philippians, Paul reminds Christ-followers that their allegiance is to Jesus, and they are called to follow him in his Kingdom way.
2. Paul says that Jesus was, in nature, God. For Paul, Jesus is divine. He always was divine and didn't stop being divine when he became a person. Paul wasn't the only New Testament writer to make this claim. John, in his Gospel, declares: "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." -John 1:1
3. "He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." The idea here is that Jesus didn't cling to the advantages of being God while being a human. He didn't pretend to be a human while secretly using his divinity to rule over others, to get ahead in life, or even procure fame and fortune as we might imagine.
4. "He made himself nothing." What he means here by "made himself nothing" is that Jesus set aside the advantages of being God among humans. He made his energies as God of no account even though, in essence, he is God.
5. What does it look like to follow his example of humility? One helpful statement is this: "True Humility Is Not Thinking Less of Yourself, It's Thinking of Yourself, Less." This statement helps avoid some self-degrading ideas that are often associated with humility.

Next Steps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your YOU+ journey? Check out communitychristian.org/you
3. Have you considered getting baptized? Learn more at communitychristian.org/baptism
4. Would you commit to reading Philippians every day through the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily