

ORDINARY TIME, EXTRA-ORDINARY DAYS...

“The Same” Phil 2:1-13

- i. This is a text about how to be the same as Christ. Who doesn't want that?
- ii. Two current phrases that draw a sharp distinction with the Christ:
 - a. “I want to be an influencer!”
 - b. You “just do you.”
 - c. Both wield a form of individuated and autonomous power.
- iii. Jesus power is grounded in humility.
- iv. There was a disagreement in Philippi between two women and Paul calls them out by name (4:2)—ouch!
- v. Paul was writing in jail in fear of being executed.

WE CAN HAVE THE SAME MIND AS CHRIST...

- I. BY BEING A REFLECTION OF CHRIST (IMITATE) vs. 1-5
 - a. There is a great difference between an impersonator and a reflection
 - b. Impersonators...
 - c. Reflectors....
 - d. Impersonators come from the reading “if” and reflectors come from the reading “since.”
- II. BY BEING HUMBLE LIKE CHRIST (EMPTY) vs 6-8
 - a. *Kenosis* means to self-empty verses grab.
 - b. Adam grabbed power and Jesus gives it up out of love, like God.
 - c. Humility was not a virtue in ancient cultures, nor in ours.
 - d. In humility we do not lose self we gain truer self.
- III. BY LEANING INTO OUR UNITY IN THE CHRIST (FELLOWSHIP) vs. 9-11
 - a. In humility there is just exaltation of all people.
 - b. The Greek word is *koinonia* or fellowship. It also means common unity the derivative for community.
 - c. Verses 9-11 is the cosmic Christ exalted with the other triune members at the center of a peaceable realm.
 - d. It is pure shalom.
- IV. BY LEANING INTO THE GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT vs 12-13.
 - a. This wonderful and encouraging phrase, “For it is God who is at work in you (plural).”
 - b. It is already happening. We don't have to persuade, argue, make it happen, strategize for unity, empower one another of be influencers for it—it is already happening.
 - c. Since these are true (verses 1-5) it is already available to us. When we lean into the cosmic, gospel, and spiritual truth of it all we have the same mind as the Christ.