

LOVE IN HUMILITY

Friday, April 24th, 2020

Philippians 2:1-4

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

On our journey as a church to our future, heavenly city of Jerusalem, it’s nice and helpful to either be taught or reminded by the early church how we should live out Christian fellowship in unity. Here in the first two verses of this chapter we read about five “church truths” the Philippian church understood and lived out of in an ideal way; for example, they knew they were united to Christ, and had comfort from His love, and so let these truths guide their lives.

And yet, or maybe even therefore, Paul writes about the unity we should have as disciples of Christ (verse 2). Not only are we God’s family because we all are unified under these New Testament “church truths”, but especially because we are unified in our goal to practice sacrificial giving and valuing one another above ourselves. Paul wants to bring us back to the heart of the matter, just like he did the Philippians. Unfortunately, this apostolic piety he encourages is often undermined by selfishness. In humility, as exemplified by Jesus Himself, there is no need for “righteousness and arrogance”. For example, hasty forms of teaching others should be put away, because they often come from fleshly motivations (verse 3) and are destructive. When we think about valuing others “in humility”, it means we should remind ourselves that we all have been bought by the blood of Christ through God’s mercy.

Even more so should we live out this others-centeredness by following the example of Jesus with the utmost appreciation and the deepest dedication. Don’t focus on what separates you from others, but rather on what would serve them. It is this kind of pure, brotherly love, which God as our Father in Heaven and role model shows us, that reflects and thereby glorifies Him. The source of all love is the LORD, because HE Himself is love! It’s only when we cling to HIM that we will achieve not only a God-pleasing church life, but also this difficult, Jesus-like humility! Let us not stop short by only seeking to understand these “church truths” but let us also live out this humble love for one another that has true power and eternal life!

We have this strong promise from Jesus: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Prayer: *LORD, we want to recognize Your humility as Your love for us and thank You for Your ways – even to the cross. Please reveal Yourself to us today in a fresh way. We want to welcome you into our lives anew with our whole hearts. Amen.*

-Matthias Völker-

