**Joyful Service**

Philippians 2:1-11

I have a simple goal in this message, as in this whole series: ***to elevate and magnify Jesus***. If we are to **REJOICE in the LORD**, we first have to see Him as the ultimate source of joy and life and peace and direction and everything else.

I want to help us pause each Sunday to lift up our eyes to take in the supremacy of Christ Jesus our Lord, just like going to the beach and watching a spectacular sunset. Let’s look up from whatever we are doing, whatever is on our minds – our responsibilities, our struggles, our temptations and sins – let’s stop for a few minutes and lift our eyes ***to see all that Jesus is and all He has done for us***.

When we do this we find that ***God becomes bigger*** in our hearts and minds and that we become smaller. Not that God has changed, but our view of Him has changed and we see more clearly how very big He is and ***how very small we are by comparison***.

So much of the tension and conflict in our relationships comes down to ***the stupidity of comparing ourselves with other people***.

* He makes more money than I do.
* She weighs a little less than I do.
* He’s not as good at soccer as I am.
* She is two levels above me in the company.
* He knows a lot more about this subject than I do.
* She can run faster than I can.
* I bet I pray more than he does.
* I wonder if I know more Bible verses than her.
* I think I probably work harder than those other people at church…

On and on the comparisons go. Think about it. Comparing yourself to another human being is like saying, “I’m six feet tall and you’re only 5’10” – so ***I am two inches closer to the sun***!” For those of you under six feet tall (which I am, in certain shoes), you may have noticed that I stand just a little closer to the sky than you… just a little closer to the clouds... Do you see the nonsense of comparison? **What does an inch or two matter next to our distance to the *sun*?!?**

What difference does any attribute or achievement make in comparison to the infinite and eternal glory of God? You are an inch or two closer to the sun than me and I’m an inch or two closer than that guy. We are ***tiny ants crawling all over*** each other to get just a little higher off the ground.

LOOK UP! Let’s stop comparing ourselves to other people!

Let’s step back from all of this chasing after the wind and lift our eyes to the heavens. Let’s look at the eternal, infinite wonders of Jesus Christ. And as we see Him high and lifted up may we all be reminded of our true status and significance – which is precisely zero apart from Him. ***Mathematicians remind me – what is 10 zillion divided by infinite?***

This morning I will draw **three comparisons**: Jesus’ mindset and our mindset; Jesus’ ministry and our ministry; Jesus’ majesty and our only hope now and forever in Him – our Magnificent, eternal hope in Christ.

There are several clear commands in this passage, but the central one is in verse 5 – ***“Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus.”*** That is our goal this morning. Let’s study the mind of Jesus and increasingly adopt His mindset as our own. As we’ve said numerous times in this study of Philippians – let’s fill our minds with Christ as Paul did so that he could say, “to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Verse five is well translated in the ESV, which we use here at Oakwood – ***“Have this mind among yourselves.”*** Other translations say, “Have this mind in you,” or “Have this attitude in you,” which allows us to make this more individual than it is. This is ***a communal exhortation*** with a plural YOU. This mindset should be among all of us as a church. This should be our corporate attitude, our collective way of thinking that creates a shared culture of service.

Also notice that this mind we are to collectively embrace is ***already ours in Christ Jesus***. Believers HAVE the mind of Christ because we house the Spirit of Christ and He illumines our minds and speaks to our hearts.

So let’s look at **Jesus’ mindset** and compare it to our own. Three categories: nature, status, significance.

**In his nature**, **Jesus is and always was fully divine** - of one essence with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Verse 6 says, ***“He was in the form of God.”*** This word “form” means internal nature not external shape. The Greek word is “Morphe” and appears again in v. 8 when Jesus takes on “human form.” That doesn’t mean Jesus had only the external appearance of a human but that he became fully human, while remaining fully God. This is the mystery of the incarnation!

One commentator explains the difference between the two Greek words morphe and schema:  
**“Morphe is the essential form which never alters; schema is the outward form which changes from time to time and from circumstance to circumstance. For instance, the essential morphe of any human being is humanity and this never changes; but his schema is continually changing. A baby, a child, a boy, a youth, a man of middle age, an old man always have the morphe of humanity but the outward schema changes all the time.” (Barclay pp. 35-36)**

Do any of us notice our schema changing even this week? The old schema is breaking down, but our morphe as humans is our defining essence, our unchanging nature.

**Jesus’ morphe was that of God**. He was and is God in essence eternally sharing the very same nature as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. One God, three persons.

***Jesus is fully divine***. **Therefore Jesus is the powerful and important being in the universe.** He is the exalted creator of all things – the one through whom all things were made and for whom all things were made. He is the sovereign ruler over all things and upholds them, moment by moment, by His powerful word. If Jesus every stopped thinking about the universe, even for a split second, everything would simply cease to exists. We all live and breathe and our whole world continues to exist only because Jesus continues to think us – moment by moment – into being.

**Jesus is supreme. We, by contrast, are nothing**. You and I are weak, insignificant specks of dust. We are a mist that appears at dawn and by mid-day has disappeared. Jesus is infinite, we are finite. He is the High King, we are peasants. He is the sun, we are grains of sand. He sits on the outer rim of the most distant galaxy the Hubble can see, all of humanity combined is like a bustling colony of tiny little ants.

In his nature, Jesus is divine. In His status, **Jesus is eternally glorious**. ***“He was in the form of God but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.”*** He was equal with God, this verse clearly asserts. But he chose not to cling to this, not to hold onto it though that was his right. As the creator and Lord of all things, Jesus deserves universal and unending praise, glory and honor. He enjoyed that status right up until Christmas when he was born as a baby and the angels sang one final anthem for the shepherds before letting Jesus slip into the obscurity of a small Jewish town called Bethlehem.

Jesus was eternally and infinitely holy, righteous and good. By comparison, **we are utterly sinful**. Jesus, because of his status as Lord deserves unending worship from all of His creation. We deserve condemnation and wrath. “The wages of sin is death.” The punishment for failing to give God the honor and service He deserves is eternal conscious suffering – not just physical death but unending spiritual punishment.

Yes, we are finite and sinful and justice would mean we all suffer God’s eternal wrath. But **Jesus is the All-Gracious Savior** and as verse 8 tells us, he ***“became obedient to death, even death on a cross.”***

We’ve compared Jesus’ nature to our nature; Jesus’ status to our status. Now we compare ***Jesus’ significance with our significance***. He is the Savior of all people throughout all time. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Jesus is the most important being there is. He is God. What infinitesimal specks of dust are we next to Him!

Paul opens Philippians 2 with four hypotheticals that are really assertions. ***“If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy.”*** When we think about who Jesus is and who we are - believers should all have great encouragement in Christ, enduring comfort from His love, joyful participation in the Holy Spirit and overflowing affection and sympathy. When we see how insignificant and undeserving we are and how merciful and humble and gracious God is to forgive us and be involved in our lives – our constant song should be **“Amazing Grace – how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”**

As we experience the amazing grace and love of Christ we should be a people overflowing with that grace for others. ***Jesus is the GIVER OF GRACE. We are the RECIPIENTS OF GRACE.***

So our mindset as finite and sinful people should be focused on **how much we have been GIVEN – how much we have been FORGIVEN**. Forgiven people are quick to forgive. If you are slow to forgive someone when they hurt you it may mean you have not adequately reflected on the massive debt you owed to God in comparison to the tiny debt some person owed to you.

We have been forgiven in order to offer forgiveness to others. ***We have received grace that we might be ambassadors of grace.*** The love of Jesus is not meant to stop in us but to flow through us to others. We should be **channels of grace not reservoirs collecting grace**. God’s grace should flow freely and liberally through us to the people around us who – just like us – are desperately in need of GRACE.

***Do we have this mind among ourselves that IS ours in Christ Jesus?*** He who is the fully divine, eternally glorious, all-sufficient Savior - He is actively uniting believers together with God and one another for our unending joy in Him! Who are we next to Jesus? How can we waste our time and energy in comparison with other people when we see ourselves in light of the glory of God?

***When Jesus is high and lifted up we see ourselves more clearly as the finite***, frail, insignificant, sinful, twisted recipients of unmerited mercy and grace. And seeing how much we have been forgiven and how great the price was to reconcile us with God, we should joyfully and passionately **embrace the mindset of Christ and commit to humbly and sacrificially serve**.

Have you lifted your eyes to see the glory of Christ – how high and exalted He is and how low and insignificant we are by comparison? If this room were the sun, **1.3 million earths could fit inside of it** – making each earth roughly the size of this tennis ball. Compared to the sun our whole planet is a tennis ball. So that makes each of us a microscopic speck on the edge of some tiny strip of green fuzz – tinier than the Who’s in Whoville. Let’s keep our nature, status and significance in perspective and obey Philippians 2:3, ***“In humility count others more significant than yourselves.”***

***Comparison to others is a dangerous trap***. Instead, **we must see ourselves next to Jesus**. And as we see Him in the light of His all-surpassing glory we see that the differences between you and me are so miniscule as to be absurd to mention or even think about.

***“Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus.”*** The fully divine, eternally glorious, all –gracious Savior who obediently laid down his life for us – ***He is our model and our Master***. We’ve reflected on his mindset – now lets look at his ministry and compare it to our own.

**Jesus’ ministry was a consistently downward movement.** From his position as the Creator and King of the universe – being in the form of God, sharing the same essence with God, ***“he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”***

Jesus took ***four downward steps*** from His eternal throne in heaven to earth, to Bethlehem, to Israel and finally to the cross.

Moving from heaven to earth, **Jesus relinquished his rights**. His nature, status and significance meant that he had every right to the wholehearted worship and devoted service of everything in His creation. But he did not cling to those rights – he did not insist on them but instead ***“emptied himself.”*** He willingly placed himself lower than he deserved.

This does not mean that he emptied himself of his divine nature, becoming less than God. No, his nature always was and always will be fully God, but he took on a fully human body thereby pouring his full divinity into the clay pot of a weak and fragile body of a baby boy.

If our Lord and Savior surrendered HIS rights – we must **reject the pervasive perception that we have rights at all**. The only thing you and I are entitled to is God’s just wrath and our eternal condemnation. We should be very reluctant to demand our rights.

We have earned nothing from God in terms of privileges, comforts or blessings and anything good we have is entirely a gift of His mercy and grace. So whenever the thought or feeling creeps up on us to say, “You deserve better… she owes you… he ought to be giving you more,” reject that perception and remember the truth that JESUS Himself did not cling to his rights but chose to empty himself – to pour Himself out for you and for me by coming from heaven to earth.

But he did not just appear on earth as he did numerous times in the Old Testament as the Angel of the Lord. No, this time he came to Bethlehem and drastically **limited his abilities** by being born as a helpless human baby. Once a year at Christmas time is not enough to reflect on the wonders of the Incarnation. The eternal Son of God, the infinitely glorious creator of heaven and earth – was an embryo that grew into a full term baby in Mary’s womb. He was a baby with all the same limitations and vulnerabilities as every baby that has ever been born. The Ruler of the Universe was totally dependent on the care of a 17 year old girl and her brand new husband, a carpenter.

It helps me to think of Jesus in his human body like ***an Olympic sprinter in a suit of armor***. The nature of that sprinter has not changed but his abilities are limited by the suit he is wearing. Don’t press the analogy too far to conclude that Jesus only APPEARED to be human – No, he was fully human just as he was fully divine. But Jesus’ humanity very much LIMITED the exercise of some attributes of his divinity.

As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was ***omnipresent***. As a human, he was limited to one place. As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was ***all***-***powerful***. As a human, Jesus experienced weakness, hunger, pain and even death. As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was ***all-knowing***. As a human, Jesus’ had to learn how to speak, how to walk; he had to learn what the Bible teaches. Consider the humility and grace of Jesus in how drastically he limited his abilities ***“by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”***

Our application of this self-limiting of Jesus is to **Refuse the Pursuit of Recognition**. So much of life is devoted to ***the wind-chasing pursuit of human applause***. Everyone wants to define and promote their BRAND – to become better known, to network to share advantages with others who can help you move forward. So many of us are “people pleasers,” – slaves to the fickle perceptions and ever changing desires of the people around us.

What would it look like if we actually obeyed Philippians 2:3? ***“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.”*** Do NOTHING. Not one single thing in pursuit of the exaltation of yourself. Not one single thing to feed the vainglory of your pride…

Verse 4 is important too – ***“Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.”*** Ok. Verse 3 on its own would be a mandate to leave our houses, sell everything and become homeless mystics and traveling monks. But verse 4 balances it to say, “Yes, it’s ok to take care of your own needs – pray for your daily bread and all that… but don’t get stuck in that mode – only looking out for yourself. Keep in mind there are people around you – consider their needs and interests as well.”

***Are you living for the glory of God or the glory of you?*** I’ll be the first to admit that this is a struggle for me and most pastors I know. This is an idol I have to crush every day. It’s like I need Helen Par (Elastigirl) shouting down at me as she stretches up above me – **“This is NOT ABOUT YOU!”** As we reflect on the One who relinquished His rights and limited his abilities, let’s release our tight grip on our rights and increasingly refuse to pursue recognition and the advancement of ourselves.

Jesus moved from heaven to earth, to Bethlehem and then on to his ministry in the land of Israel. In his third downward step, **Jesus humbly served** the least deserving and least responsive. V. 7 says, He “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant…” v. 8 “he humbled himself.” Isaiah foresaw the Servant of Israel who would suffer and be rejected by the nation. Jesus experienced this throughout the three years of his ministry and in increasing measure. Whenever we think we have it tough in ministry, remember **what Jesus endured**.

* ***Three years of travelling ministry*** without a home of his own – frequently cold, hungry and stressed.
* ***A petty and confused ministry team*** that constantly questioned him and doubted his decisions, even his very identity, with a deceitful traitor among his most trusted leaders.
* ***A fickle following with crowds*** that would cheer for him when he fed and healed them but then scream at him and try to stone him when he taught something they didn’t like.
* ***A vocal and growing group of opponents*** who questioned and attacked him in public and private, eventually resulting in his brutal beating and execution.

**And yet Jesus served**. He touched lepers. He healed the sick. He spent time with outcasts and sinners who were rejected and despised by everyone else. When Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist to wash his disciples feet it was symbolic of his entire life and ministry. He served the undeserving and unresponsive and received virtually no benefit from his ministry. All glory and credit he redirected to His Father in heaven.

This is our calling – to follow in Jesus’ steps – **to serve without seeking benefit**. Oh what a test this one is. How much of our service is really selfish ambition? The test is – ***would you still do it if nobody noticed and nobody even knew it was you?***

One of the most amazing things about Jesus is how much he did that was never written down. John makes this statement almost in passing at the end of his book, ***“Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”*** John 21:25 What amazing humility that MOST of what Jesus said and did never even got recorded!

If we learn to follow the way of Jesus we will increasingly embrace the mindset of a servant and lay aside the pursuit of recognition and benefit.

Finally, Jesus not only went to Israel, he went all the way to Jerusalem and to the cross. **He gave up his life** – ***“becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”***

***The Passion of the Christ*** film is hard to watch because it is so painfully realistic. Honestly, before seeing that film I had no idea how brutal **a Roman flogging** was. You hear about “39 lashes” and think of a leather whip and some angry, bright red welts. No. The flogging removed most of the skin from his body. The agony of that beating is hard to imagine and even harder to watch.

But it does explain why the Bible talks so much about **the BLOOD of Christ** – when his death by crucifixion would not have been particularly bloody. The flogging was a wretchedly bloody affair.

And the physical suffering Jesus endured – while beyond our comprehension – is nothing compared to ***the spiritual agony he endured*** as he bore the wrath of God for the sins of mankind. That is what made Jesus hesitate in the Garden of Gethsemane – drinking the cup of the boiling fury of God. Jesus knew full well what it meant to drink from that goblet and receive the full punishment for sin. And yet he drank the cup – all of it – for you and for me.

“Jesus paid it all. All to him I owe.” Since Jesus gave up his life for us, we should **sacrifice for the cause of Christ**. We should give our lives in service to Christ our King – no matter the cost. Look at verse 2 – ***“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”***

The only way for a church family to obey this verse is for the believers to consistently choose to sacrifice for the sake of one another. You think a little differently about worship than I do, so I adjust my expectations to serve you. This person is passionate about one ministry while another is committed to a different ministry – someone has to flex to accommodate the other. Two programs are scheduled for the same weekend and one needs to reschedule to help promote the other.

Remember 1:27 – may I ***“hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”*** Does preserving the unity of the church feel like sacrifice sometimes? Of course! So brothers and sisters, let’s all commit to look not only to our own interests but first and foremost to the interests of others. Let’s crucify our selfish ambition and vainglorious pursuit of recognition and in humility consider others BETTER than ourselves. Let’s embrace the mind that we HAVE in CHRIST – the most important being in the universe who surrendered his rights, served without any benefit and went humbly to the cross.

May we follow our Master on the way of the cross. And look, brothers and sisters, at where his path leads! V. 9 ***“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Chris is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

Here we see the acting agent change. Until this point Jesus is active – emptying Himself, humbling himself, obeying, dying. But here in v. 9 ***God the Father takes over***, exalting God the Son to the highest place. **God Restored Jesus** to His rightful place of supreme glory and honor

This does not mean that Jesus had lost any of his divinity or authority. The Great Commission is clear that the Father had already entrusted all authority to the Son. But now publicly, visibly, physically – through Jesus’ resurrection and ascension the glory Jesus always had was made manifest.

Just as God restored Jesus, so we can have confidence that if we follow Jesus’ path of humility, dependence on the father, service and sacrifice God will fulfill His promise that everyone who humbles himself will be exalted. **God will restore our joy, our peace, our life** – as He will restore all of creation to the harmony of His original creation when he pronounced everything “very good.” In the end, ***God will make all things new***, righting every wrong, defeating evil, sin, death and sadness forever.

“***The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”*** Romans 8:21

This is our great hope, brothers and sisters!

Secondly, **God Recognized Jesus** as the sovereign ruler over all people and all things, giving Him the name that is above every name - most likely the NAME is either Lord or Jesus or both – Lord Jesus. The day will come when every knee will bow before King Jesus and every tongue will confess Him as Lord.

Followers of Jesus will bow the knee and profess Him as Lord as joyful, ***willing servants***. Non-believers will bow the knee and profess Jesus as Lord as ***defeated enemies***. **Now is the time of God’s favor** – today is the day of salvation when people can freely choose to acknowledge Jesus as their Savior and Lord. But a day will come when it will be too late, when a line will be drawn and Jesus will place His sheep on his right hand to enter into their master’s happiness and he will place the goats on his left side, consigning them to eternal judgment and suffering. That terrible Day of judgment is coming soon, friends – may we never forget that that moment is the event our earthly lives are driving inevitably toward.

But for us who know and love and trust in Jesus as our Lord, we believe that ***God will recognize in us the righteousness of Christ***. As 1:11 says, on that day we will be ***“filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God!”***

So the Day of judgment is a day of celebration and joy – of victory and vindication for the people of God. It is a fearful day of reckoning for those who have not been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. But for all of us who belong to Jesus it will be like this.

**Your name will be called** to stand before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – the judge of every human soul – Jesus Christ. If you do not belong to Jesus by personal faith he will say, “Depart from me, you doer of evil, for I never knew you,” and you will be sent away from the joys of heaven forever, eternally damned to live with your sin forever and forever.

But if you do belong to Jesus he will stand up and walk over to you from his throne, standing beside you with a smile and a warm embrace – and he will present you joyfully to the Father saying, “***This one is with me*** – his sin has been paid for, his righteousness established. This one is mine, Father. Her sin is removed from her account and my holiness applied to her.”

And the final result is that God will be glorified. Just as he is glorified through the obedience and exaltation of Jesus, so God will be glorified through the final judgment of all people – whether through their condemnation, vindicating God’s justice or through their welcome into heaven, demonstrating God’s amazing grace – God will be exalted.

Let me close with a visual contrast of two ways to live. **Jesus’ way is the path of downward mobility** – the path of humility, dependence, service and sacrifice. “He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

The alternative is **the way of the devil**. Though he was the most exalted of angels, he chose to pursue a path to greater glory. “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high… I will make myself like the Most High.’” Is. 14:13-14

Jesus’ way leads to the cross. The devil’s way tries to avoid sacrifice and suffering.

But notice the ***radically different results*** of these two ways. Jesus humbled himself in the incarnation and was obedient to the point of being crucified for your sin and mine. But God raised him from the dead, proving that Jesus was all that he claimed to be – vindicating his teachings and his sacrificial death. Then Jesus ascended to heaven where he sits at the Father’s right hand and lives to intercede for us, His followers.

***The devil, by contrast, exalted himself***. He wanted more than God had given him – he wanted to be in the place of God Himself. So he staged a revolution and tried to overthrow God. Before we rush to judgment on this fallen angel let’s keep in mind that you and I do the very same thing every time we make anything but God our supreme joy, anytime we let something else take first place in our hearts and lives we are exalting ourselves and attempting to usurp the throne from God.

Let’s always remember what happened to satan. Isaiah 14 documents God’s response: ***“But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit… You are cast out… like a dead body trampled underfoot.”*** Isaiah 14:15,19

Here is the summary, from Matthew 23:12 – “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” The only way up to glory is first down to the cross. The only way up to heaven is to come humbly to Jesus at the foot of the cross and surrender your heart and life to Him. His promise is that everyone who calls on His name will be saved – everyone who comes to him in faith he will lift up and bring with him to heaven.

Whose way are you following? Is the trajectory of your life upward in pursuit of your selfish ambitions? Or is your pathway downward, and increasingly defined by the cross of Jesus Christ? Laying down your rights, refusing to pursue recognition, serving without seeking benefit, sacrificing for the gospel and the glory of God?

May we follow our glorious and humble Savior, trusting Him to lift us up in His time.

Let’s pray.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Jesus’ Mindset** |  | **Our Mindset** |
| * **Fully Divine** - the most powerful and important being in the universe * **Eternally Glorious** – deserving universal praise * **All-Gracious Savior** – he gave His life to save sinners, reconciling us with God and one another | ***NATURE***  ***STATUS***  ***SIGNIFICANCE*** | * **Finite** - We are weak, insignificant, mortal * **Sinful** - deserving eternal condemnation * **Recipients of Grace** – Having experienced God’s love we live as ambassadors of the gospel |
| **Jesus’ Ministry** | **From Heaven** | **Our Ministry** |
| * **He Relinquished His Rights** to the glory due to His nature, status and significance * **He Limited His Abilities** by becoming fully human * **He Humbly Served** the least deserving, receiving no benefit * **He Gave up His Life** in the most painful and humiliating way | ***TO EARTH***  ***TO BETHLEHEM***  ***TO ISRAEL***  ***TO THE CROSS*** | * **Reject the Perception of Rights** - that we are entitled to any privileges due to our nature, status or significance * **Refuse the Pursuit of Recognition** – live for the glory of God not the advancement of self * **Serve without Benefit** * **Sacrifice for the Cause of Christ** |
| **Jesus’ Majesty** |  | **Our Magnificent Hope in Christ** |
| * **God Restored Jesus** to His rightful place of supreme glory and honor * **God Recognized Jesus** as the sovereign ruler over all people and all things * **God Receives Glory** through the exaltation of Jesus | ***STATUS***  ***SIGNIFICANCE***  ***RESULT*** | * **God will Restore** the joyful harmony of the original creation * **God will Recognize** the righteousness of Christ in us – the fruit of His work in and through us * **God will be Glorified** by our union with Him through Christ. |

* Consider others more important than yourself
  + Jesus is the MOST IMPORTANT Being that exists (the form of God)
  + He did not choose to cling to his rightful status
  + But instead emptied himself, taking the form of a servant
* Serve others before you serve yourself

Exaltation

* Standing in His grace
* Sharing in His sufferings
* Shining the light of His love - We ARE the light in a dark World (2:15)
* Citizens of Heaven (3:20)
* Supplied with everything we need (4:19)
* Soon to be glorified like Jesus (3:21) filled w the fruit of His righteousness
* Satisfied eternally with the glorious riches of God in Christ (4:19-20)

2:1-4 JOYFUL UNITY

- the source: knowing the love of Christ, we love one another (1)

- the goal: complete unity (2)

- the mindset: other-centered humility (3)

- the lifestyle: other-centered service (4)

2:4-11 JOYFUL SERVICE

- Jesus' example is our model (4-5)

- the self-humbling of the Son of God (6-8)

- the exaltation of the Lord of all (9-11)