***The God Who Forms and Fills us***

***Psalm 16, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 2: 1-11***

***World Reach Meru Retreat, June 28-30, 2021***

***Psalm 16***

***A mitkam of David***

**1**Watch over me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
**2**I say to the Yahweh, “You are my Lord;  
    You are all the good I need.”

**3**As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
    in whom is all my delight.

**4**The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
    their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
    or take their names on my lips.

**5**Yahweh is my chosen portion and my cup;  
    you take charge of my lot.  
**6**Measuring-lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
    indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

**7**I bless the Yahweh who gives me counsel;  
    in the night also my heart instructs me.   
**8**I have set the Yahweh always before me;  
    because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

**9**Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole beingrejoices;  
   even my flesh also dwells secure.  
**10**For you will never abandon my soul to Sheol,  
    or let your holy one see corruption

**11**You make known to me the path of life;  
full joys in your presence, pleasures at your right hand forever.

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,***

***the love of God***

***and***

***the fellowship of the Holy Spirit***

***be with you all.***

*(2 Corinthians 13:14)*

***Session I “What is God up to?”***

*“Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come…”*

*John Newton*

*“Life is Overwhelming”*

*Jimmy Miller, Ruling Elder FPC*

What is overwhelming in Your life*?*

*What is alarming to you?*

*The Goal of Preaching and Teaching is to strengthen, comfort and encourage God’s people*

*Paul the Apostle*

*“…to encourage you to keep your mind on what* anchors *you rather than on what* alarms *you”*

*Dale Ralph Davis*

*A better question rather than,*

*“What is overwhelming in your life?”*

*Or*

*What is alarming to you?*

*What is God up to?*

1. God is at work

*“My father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” (Jesus John 5:14*

1. Jesus claimed equality with God, to be God in the flesh
2. In John, Jesus also clearly teaches us that there are 3 persons authorized to be called God

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I I have to you.*

(Jesus, John 14:26)

1. The Apostles taught there are 3 persons authorized to be called God
2. The Trinity is “hinted at’ in the Old Testament…

But clearly made known in the New Testament by Jesus and His Apostles.

1. There is One God, Who exists eternally in 3 persons

We believe in the Holy Trinity…

Trinity = “Tri-Unity” “Three and Unity”

God is a Great Mystery

What is the Triune God up to in your life?

How is God working in the world?

How is God working in the church?

“You have made known to me the path of life;

Full joys in your presence, pleasures at your right hand forever.”

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may it more abundantly”

John 10:10b

“…so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6:19b

1. What is God up to in your life and in His Church
2. God is working His life out in the world
3. God is working His life in Us
4. He is conforming us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ
5. He is teaching us to “walk in His path of life”
6. He is teaching us to live the life that is truly life

A life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

1. God has a plan…to conform His Church into the radiant Bride of Christ
2. When He comes again the plan will be completed, we will walk with Him and one another, on the new earth
3. How is God at work?

*“in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was FORMLESS and EMPTY, and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters.*

*3And God said; ’Let there be light.’ And there was light.*

1. *“Toe-Who-Va-Bo-Who is Hebrew for “formless and empty.”*
2. *God forms and fills His world in 6 days*
3. *We are the “crown” of His creation…His great delight!*
4. The Triune God was at work from the beginning filling and forming
5. *The Father speaks*
6. *He creates through His Son*
7. *The Spirit is present and active in creation*
8. *We were created in God’ Image, therefore:*
9. *We are made to glorify and enjoy Him*

*And understand His love and purpose for our lives*

1. *We are called to form and fill the world with His life and glory*
2. *To form those around us, especially those in our care*

*(to love our neighbor as ourselves)*

1. *Sinners are mostly interested in “self-formation” and “self filling”*
2. *Sinners serve the “gods” of this world*
3. *Sin is getting your identity from anything rather than God, filling yourself with the things of the world, letting the world form you*

*“the sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;*

*(Psalm 61:4a)*

*Sin ruins us…we wind up being “unformed” and “empty”*

1. *The Good News of the Gospel*
2. *Jesus pours Himself out for us and fill us with His righteousness and forgiveness*
3. *He lives the life we cannot live*
4. *He dies the death we should have died*
5. *He was raised from the dead*

*God shines the Gospel in our hearts!*

*For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”*

*made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory*

*displayed in the face of Christ.*

*(2 Corinthians 4:6)*

1. *Paul says if anyone is “in Christ,” (believes the Gospel)*

*NEW CREATION*

1. *As in the Beginning…*
2. *The Father speaks*
3. *He re-creates through the Son (the Word)*
4. *The Spirit is present and active in the re-creation and renewal*

*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*

*John 3:8*

*The Spirit fills us with God’s glory in Christ and now God calls us to form and fill the world with His Life and Glory. We are to fill and form those around us, especially those under our care.*

*Jesus says, “Behold, I am making all things new.*

*We were the “To Who va bo who.”*

*But God renews us…fills and forms us through…*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ*

*The Love of God*

*The fellowship of the Holy Spirit*

*“You make known to me the path of life; full joys in your presence*

*pleasures at your right hand forever.*

*Questions for Discussion:*

*What is the biggest take away from this session?*

*What is overwhelming in your life? What are you alarmed about?*

*(Does your situation feel formless, directionless and empty?)*

*How does the fact that God has a finished goal in mind reshape your thinking about your present situation?*

*Consider one of the following:*

*How has Jesus shown you His grace recently?*

*How have you understood God’s love more deeply?*

*What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you about Jesus from His Word?*

*Take time to thank Jesus for His grace, the Father for His love and the Spirit for His fellowship and presence*

***Session 2 “The God Who Forms our Hearts?”***

***God is at work in all of us…So we may live the Kingdom’s life of righteous, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***

***How exactly does God form the heart of Kingdom (the heart of His Son) in us?***

***God must form a “child-like” heart in us***

*“And call to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself likes this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 18: 3-4*

*A childlike faith keeps you mind on what anchors you rather than on what alarms you*

1. *Anchors of the Christian Life that flow out of o childlike heart*
2. *Psalm 16:1-Watch over me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*
3. *God has renewed us in Christ, we are forgiven, we are more loved and accepted than we could ever imagine*
4. *I say to Yahweh, “You are my Lord (Adonai); You are all the good I need.”*
5. ***Yahweh is the OT Name of the One God in 3 Persons***
6. **Yahweh means... “I am...” or “I will be Who I will be.**
7. **“I am BEGINNING-LESS LIFE**
8. ***“God has given us His Son for us,how will He not also along with Him give us all things?”***
9. **God is our Refuge...He is ALL our good**

**What good things has God done for you?**

1. **Yahweh is also called “Adonai”…the Sovereign King:**

**A. As the Sovereign King He fills us and forms us by His Spirit...**

**B. God leads us to repentance and faith in Christ**

**C. He rescues us from Sin and Death**

***“God has given us His Son for us,  
how will He not also along with Him give us all things?”***

**God is our Refuge......**

**He is ALL our good...He is Sovereign**

**IV. 3 Areas of God’s sovereignty David delights in**

**A. God is sovereign over our relationships**

**3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.**

**David delights in the people of God!** God’s desire is that we live out God’s life (the Life that is truly life) WITH OTHER BELIEVERS...We live out the righteousness peace and joy of the Kingdom TOGETHER

**B. (5) The Lord is** my food and my drink” **God gives Himself to us..( He dwells within us)**

1.He also knows we are creatures who need physical nourishment... **God provides His presence...and He provides what we need physically**

C. God “being in charge of his circumstances (God PROVIDES HIS circumstances)

**1. the word “lot” in (5) and “measuring lines” (6) come from when God divided the land of C anaan among the tribes of Israel... (God “divi-ed out” a portion of land for everybody...**

**(4b-6) “you take charge of my lot.6 Measuring-lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;**

1. **Rick’s son’s survey**

**Sum: a. David is saying...he’s is saying God “**measures **out” ... “He** marks **out”...”He** draws **up”** All The lines of our life story**... He directs every circumstance** (( even the dangers...the toils and the snares ))

**2.the Measuring-lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

**God draws up the survey of our lives...  
((like the mysterious verse David says in psalm 139)  
“all my days were written ...in your book before one of them came to be” Psalm 139:16**

**God draws up the survey...He designs our portion...  
we can’t go to the courthouse and look at it...  
We can’t look into the future...**we just live out our lives...by faith

**3. God’s mysterious survey...God’s providence** God’s providence is His providing for us...

**“God’s providence is His most holy and wise  
preserving EVERY creature and every action”**

1. **1986 to 2021**

sometimes the survey doesn’t look very pleasant...

**But that’s where you have to say to yourself... (( and we say to one another )**

just wait till you get to point B

**A** **B**

When you look back from point B to point A...

**You will say... “God is good”... God has been my portion... my food and drink through all the hard times  indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

**God sent His son to rescue us from this present evil age...** (that’s the Greatest good He has done for us) **And one day** we will see the END RESULT **of that RESCUE... When Jesus comes again...(the ULTIMATE POINT B)**

Everything sad is going to come untrue and it will somehow be greater for having once been broken and lost.” J. R. Tolkien

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For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

Revelation 7:17

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21: 1

**One Day the whole world will be filled with God’s glory and full of people completely formed into the image of Christ**

***Session 3 “The God Who Fills and Forms Body and Soul”***

God filled David with His Spirit…He formed a child-like heart in him by teaching him

•God His REFUGE and is all his good

•God was Sovereign…THE BOSS…in charge of His life…in charge of HIS CIRCUMSTANCES

• God was in charge of his relationships…(God surrounded David w/His people)

How can did David know that all was true? (from ***experience***…YES )

1. David’s greatest contentment as God’s child…

came from the fact that God speaks to us and teaches us from His Word

1. 7I bless Yahweh who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.   
   1. trouble sleeping at night?
2. go back to God’s Word…you listen to the Spirit…you trust God (again)

You remember again God is our refuge…HE is good…He is sovereign…

He’s using the situation to fill you and form a childlike heart in you

Are you thankful for the direction He gives you from His Word?

How He points you again and again back to the promises of God

(( He points you again and again back to Jesus). HE LOVES TO DO THAT

His promises bring us peace and contentment…the joy and peace of God’s Kingdom

1. God used a lot of promises to form David’s heart…

But I think you the greatest promise is found in the (8-11)

**8**I have set the Yahweh always before me;  
    because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

**9**Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole beingrejoices;  
   even my flesh also dwells secure.  
**10**For you will never abandon my soul to Sheol,  
    or let your holy one see corruption

**11**You make known to me the path of life;  
full joys in your presence, pleasures at your right hand forever.

8I have set Yahweh always before me  because he is at my right hand,

I shall not be shaken.

9Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole beingrejoices; even my flesh also dwells secure.

1. Why is David’s heart glad? Why does he rejoice? Why is his FLESH (his body) secure?

10For you will never abandon my soul to Sheol,or let your holy one see corruption

1. Human beings ( you and I ) are body and soul…
2. (your soul matters to God…(God forgives us…He gives us the righteousness of X)

He is forming and filling our souls every DAY

(we are toe who va bo who…and God fills and forms our hearts every day through His Word…and others

1. your body is also very important to God

that’s why he rejoiced…that’s why he was so confident

his greatest joy came because of his confidence…(HIS FAITH)

that EVEN THOUGH He knew He was going to die (David knew he would die )

1. HE was CONFIDENT that God will rescue his body from the grave

(9) even my flesh also dwells secure)

10 For you will never abandon my soul to Sheol,  
    or let your holy one see corruption

1. David died…his body rotted in the grave…

So was he wrong about his body seeing decay?

1. NO…because when David wrote this psalm… he was speaking as a prophet
2. this passage is about Jesus
3. in Acts 2 Peter is preaching and as he quotes psalm 16

he says…” David died…he rotted…here’s his tomb…you can see it today!

1. in the Psalm David was speaking as a prophet…

He was predicting the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**3.** And because He was a prophet…and the King of Israel

God promised Him that He would have a Son who will rule on His throne forever!  
this Son is the HOLY ONE of (10 )…God promised to raise Him from the dead

So As a prophet David is saying…God will raise His Messiah…

God will raise up this anointed King and seat Him David’s throne forever!

And we know that God kept His promise!

He raised Jesus from the dead…and Jesus ascended into heaven…

He rules over all things…(all authority has been given to Him in heaven and on earth)

1. And here’s the good news

if God’s favored One… (the Messiah) does not see decay…If He conquered death…

Then all of God’s people (who live in the valley of the shadow of death )

We too Because of the Messiah’s victory…

Can have assurance That even in the face of death…

We will also be raised to New Life in the New heavens and the new earth

That’s why David Is not shaken

Illustration: In 1960 John Kennedy was nominated to run for president

He chose Lyndon Johnson to be his vice president…

Kennedy said..“I’m 43 years old…I’m NOT to going to die in office”

How arrogant…and How TRAGIC to think you’re tomorrow is guaranteed!

It Much better to have confidence in a Risen Savior…

Who’s life survey didn’t look very good…(( especially on the cross ))

But from all eternity …God planned to raise from the dead…

And to sit Him on David’s throne…

which right now is in Heaven

1. But Jesus won’t stay in heaven forever…One day He will return to earth…

to Make all things new

Paul talks about this in Philippians 3

**our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the working that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

What does it mean?

1. We are READY for Jesus to come again… He hasn’t come back because He’s still forming and filling His people…His church)

He calls us to form and fill others with the knowledge of the Gospel

It always goes back to the Cross The Gospel is God’s power for salvation…body and soul

God promises to renew our hearts…**AND** our bodies

That power flows through the Great Cross of Jesus Christ

Since He was raised…He will raise these “lowly bodies”

To be like His glorious body

So that you and I too might be raised to new life inthis world…

And everlasting life in the world to come(that is the great hope of Child-like faith )

This is what David believed …this is what WE believe

WE have a FAITH

That knows God is sovereign…

A Faith that knows that God is good

A faith that loves God’s people

A faith that is grateful for God’s plan for your life

And a faith that hopes in the resurrection

“Keep you mind on more on these things… that anchor your soul

(and give you a childlike faith )

Rather than on what alarms him you”

New City Catechism Question 50:

What does Christ resurrection mean for us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death so that all who trust in Him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come.

What does it mean for Jesus to triumph over sin and death?

What does it mean to be raised to new life in this world?

What does it mean to be raised to everlasting life in the world to come?

***Session 4 “The Overflow of God’s Forming and Filling… Maturity and Leadership”***

God fills and forms Christians… He fills us more and more with an understanding of:

•The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ….•the Love of God the Father and •the fellowship of the HS

He also teaches us that •He is our Refuge…•He is Good…

•He works everything in our lives together for good (God is sovereign He’s a good, good Father)

WE know we will live forever …in glorious Bodies…like Jesus’ bodyIn a New heaven and a new earth

(we’ll live with) With God and His people…People God delights in …and People we delight in

1. Because God pours Himself into us…We pour ourselves out for others…
2. God uses us to fill and form other believers

As Christians we lead and shepherd others…

WE are A.R.E.

1. A.R.E.
2. Police Business

“our jobs are more alike than you think…”

1. **What makes a good policeman? What makes a good pastor? What makes a good friend…LEADER**?
2. “A” stand for ACCESSIBLE

Policeman have zones they patrol in…

(when they are called they get there in a hurry!)

1. “R” stands for RESPONSIVE..

(when they arrive they don’t just sit in the car ) They walk into dangerous situations

1. “E” stands for ENGAGING…

THEY LISTEN they write down a report…they comfort the person in trouble…

OR they ARREST the person who’s doing wrong…who might hurt others

A.R.E. is something we do because we’re made in God’s image

Who needs you today? (Who’s in your ZONE?)

Are you accessible to them? Have you called them to check on them.

Do you RESPOND to people well? Do you show up?

(a lot of times you really don’t need to say anything…just I’m here…How can I help?)

Are you ENGAGING?

Do you listen well? Do you know what’s troubling them? Do you know what is overwhelming them?

1. **Bearing burdens (especially as a leader) is exhausting…**

Paul says… “do not become weary in doing good”

The way to not be weary is go to God…

Remember He is full of Grace... God is full of Love…The Spirit loves to fellowship

He is always accessible to you…

He always responds…

He always engages you through His Word and Spirit

**Group Discussion**

Who in your “ZONE” needs your ministry’s attention the most this coming week?

(Who do you need to be accessible to the most?)

Pray for these individuals…for opportunities to respond to and engage them

What do you think they need to hear from the Spirit through His Word?

How will you talk to them about the Gospel?

***Session 5 “Fencing Lessons…How God teaches us to Handle the Sword of the Spirit”***

1. How will you talk to them about the Gospel?
2. When someone is in trouble…(especially struggling with Sin)

Paul says we should restore them gently…

1. WE tend to want to CRAM the Word into people… to make our kids obey God…

Mainly through fear… “if you do this…it won’t go well…”

“the sorrows of those who run after others gods shall multiply”

**C.** So we do need to teach…rebuke, correct and train in righteousness!

notice the first word there in that sentence “teach”

1. So How does Paul teach all those struggling Xtns he writes to?
2. When people are struggling…you have to emphasize the teaching…the promises of the Gospel

School Example

When kids get into trouble…If you don’t remind them about the Gospel you don’t have a Christian School

The Gospel is what makes a Xtn school a Xtn school

When you’re kids get into trouble…if you don’t remind them about the Gospel…

You’re not handling the Bible well…

1. So What is the Bible?
2. A sword…
3. Story of Scalpel…Not a true story…
4. A Scalpel is used to heal…

But in the wrongs hands a scalpel can do a lot of damage

When people are in trouble…

What do you think they need to hear from the Spirit through His Word?

How will you talk to them about the Gospel? (How do you handle the Sword of the Spirit?

1. This is the “humble” and gentle approach…
2. You must Always at Start and END by TEACHING the Gospel…
3. in Ephesians he talks about marriage …what husbands are to do…what wives are to

and about children obeying their parents

Only after talking about the Gospel for 3 chapters

1. Another way to say it… the Bible is made up of INDICATIVES AND IMPERATIVES
2. Indicatives are facts…like God is your refuge…God is all your Good…God is sovereign…

God works all together for your Good God forgives you and loves you…God gives you grace…

1. Imperatives are the commandments…

You shall have no other gods before me…Love the Lord w/all your heart…

Love your neighbor…(the 10 commandments)

1. How do the 10 commandments start? (what is God’s pattern with His people?)

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you ought of Egypt out of the Land of Slavery….

(that’s a fact…that’s an indicative)…they did nothing to get themselves out

1. Then God teaches the commands…

SUM: The indicatives empower the imperatives…When you realize who you in X…

A child of God…loved before the foundation of the world…

You are moved to obey your Father

The Gospel is PURE INDICATIVE…The only thing GOD requires of us is to Believe

1. **What about repentance? What about turning from sin?**
2. What about that Greek word “metanoia?  
   “change of mind”
3. the NT clearly talks about changing our minds and direction…
4. NT also talks about change of heart…(just like OT)

Your Heart is your mind…will …affections…

All 3 must turn to …in repentance

1. And Only the Spirit can turn your heart…

And He uses the Gospel to TURN your heart…

the Grace of the Lord Jesus…the Love of God…the fellowship of the HS

ask for the Spirit…Pray for the Spirit to use His word to convict of sin… …

but His great delight is to turn people again and again to Jesus…

and Jesus never runs out of GRACE

1. here’s A good rule for Bible Sword handling…

For every 1 look at your sin…take 10 looks to Jesus…

He will change your mind…He move your heart…

He will fill you with His Spirit and empower you to obey His commandments

1. Jesus is making all things new…
2. What we have to remember is all of us have our own toe who va bo whos
3. It takes a life time to really BEGIN to understand how sinful we are…
4. But it also takes a life time to really BEGIN to understand How much God loves us in X

That He wants to fill us and form us all the days of our lives..give us eternal joys at His right hand…forever

1. Everyone in Christ is part of this New Creation…a child of God…

But every person in the New Creation still has the OLD MAN (we’re connected to the sinner Adam)

And Everybody is on a different Transformaton time-line

1. God creates everything in 6 days…(from nothing)

God creates us from “nothing” “nothing in my hands I bring”

He creates us by His grace INSTANTLY when we repent and believe the Gospel (when we look to Jesus)

But God Takes a life time to transform us…And That means some people are on different days of Creation

1. How do you handle the Sword of the Spirit?
2. The Bible says… “the MAIN purpose of the Word…the Law of God” is to lead us to X
3. Once the Spirit leads us to X…whether we becoming a Xtn for the first time

Or turning again to Jesus…for the 1000th time

2. We pray that prayer of the Tax collector in Luke 18 …

“God have mercy on me…a sinner”

And that prayer I overheard that day in the hospital

“Help me Lord Jesus, do for me what I can’t do for myself”

Pray that God would make you

A leader who always points people back to JX

When they are caught in sin…

You remind them AGAIN…

“this is why Jesus came”

That is the Humble Approach to using God’s Sword

For discussion:

Indicatives are facts about God and His power, grace and mercy.

Imperatives are commandments that describe God’s life of joy and peace

Why do you think indicatives (facts about God) lead you to live God’s life with Him (the imperatives)?

Have you used God’s Word harshly with someone?

What should you do now?

Pray that the Holy Spirit would make us into “Gospel Centered Swordsmen”

***Session 6 “Image Bearers of the Humble God”***

Introduction: How to humbly handle the Sword of the Spirit…

Paul had a humble approach with the Bible because knew His Lord is a Humble God

How did Paul know this?

**Philippians 2**

1So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love,

being in full accord and of one mind.

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philippians+2&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29380a)]

6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philippians+2&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29382c)] being born in the likeness of men.

8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. Paul was an arrogant Pharisee…Jesus called Him out of darkness into the Kingdom of Light…
2. Paul especially loved the Philippian church…his letter is so warm
3. **“because you hold me in your heart…” “brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown”**

There’s a lot of mutual love and respect There’s lots of rejoicing in this letter

1. **but there was a negative side to this letter as well…**

**(4:2) “I plead with you Euodia…and “I plead with you Syntyche to agree in the Lord**”

there was a BIG CONFLICT

**C. The root cause…of the conflict was** competitive pride…

1. Paul addresses competitive pride in all his letters…
2. **What is pride?**
3. **Pride is “selfish ambition…and at its heart** Pride is competitive…

selfish ambition **is one mark of pride,**

when you’re ambitious you climb over people to get what we want

PRIDE considers one’s self better than others…

**when you get group of proud people together…**

**it shouldn’t surprise us that you can have disunity and competition and rivalry within a church**

1. Paul also identifies with their sin… he talks about his own pride in ch 3 and in his other letters
2. **But Paul** reverses **all that..**He talks about the humility of Christ

**Because Humility is the opposite of pride…**(you consider others better than yourself)

1. The HOPE for our PRIDE (THE CHRIST HMN 2: 6-11)

**vv. 6-8 are a picture of the Humility of Christ**

**vv. 9-11 are pictures of His EXALTATION**

1. Paul uses this hymn to pastor the Philippians to counsel them…to help them in their conflict
2. **When Jesus becomes a man…**
3. **it’s a miracle…a** Great Miracle of humility(that’s Paul’s point)
4. **Jesus leaves the Glory World Above to earth…**

**a.**to live the life Adam(you and me) **should have lived**

**b.and He comes to die the death we should die…**

**The INCARANTION is GRAND DESCENT…a great act of humility…**

**The cross is connected to the incarnation…Jesus came to die for His people**

C.S. Lewis compares Jesus coming to earth with a deep sea diver who leaves the boat and goes down in the depths of the ocean with the pressure mounting…

He finds the buried treasure …SURFACES…holding up the TREASURE he has retrieved

1. **Look at what Paul says about Jesus..**
2. First of all Jesus is the God…
3. 6who, though he was in the form of God
4. And Because He IS God…He empties Himself
5. **He decides to do something…**unbelievable**….** extraordinary

He REJECTS one course of action and chooses another!

**He doesn’t just STAY GOD…(He could have done that…)**

Because He is God…He empties Himself

1. Adam tried to be God…He tried to FILL HIMSELF with goodness

but because Jesus is secure in His identity…He is God…

**He can humble Himself as a Servant…He empties Himself**

1. And Paul shows us what that emptying means…in 3 ways in 7-8

7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philippians+2&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29382c)] being born in the likeness of men.

8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1. **Jesus empties Himself by #1 “taking the form of a “**slave**”…**
2. A slave in Paul’s day had the lowest position in a culture ((poorest of the poor ))

Jesus takes the form of a slave…

**He doesn’t just appear to be a slave…He really is!**

**He came not to serve but to be served and to give His as a ransom for many**

1. **But Jesus also empties Himself by becoming a human being like us**

He has to be a Man to go to the cross for us…in our place

1. But notice this:

* **X DOES NOT empty Himself of any THING**

Paul says…He emptying is His utterly giving of Himself…

**by becoming a Man…**

**Again…He doesn’t empty Himself of anything..**

HE empties by TAKING …He never ceases to be God

**Paul doesn’t say…he emptied himself of all but love…**

**better to say… “he humbled Himself…so great His love”**

Jesus is the Humble God Who comes to humbly serve His people By going to the Cross

1. What does this have to do with humble servant leadership…

(forming and filling people you’re called to serve requires humility)

Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself…it’s thinking of yourself less

But you can only do that if you are secure in who you are

1. Jesus knew exactly Who He was…

**The Eternal Son of God…The Second person of the Trinity Who became Man**

**Jesus was utterly secure in His identity…**

1. He knew His Father’s voice at His baptism**…** “this is my Son…in whom I am well pleased”
2. if you're unsure about who you are....if you have a shaky self-image...

**you don't easily give up your rights...**

but J. takes the form of a slave…the form of a man

**Because He knows He is the beloved Son of His Father...**

He trusted His Father…even to the point of death on a cross

1. We are called to follow Jesus into humble service to His sheep

we’re all proud **But as we remember our identity in X…**

Who we are IN HIM…loved and accepted…

It chases our pride away…and we can promote the peace and unity of the church

1. **The source of Our Identity**

0“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

There’s the Great Fact…the Great Indicative of our Faith…that Great Truth

*Jesus prays that people would know that God the Father loves you and me…*

*Even as He loves Jesus the Eternal Son*

That’s Amazing…

And That truth humbles us and moves us to humility...

To think of others more than ourselves

*The Humble God of Grace Loves us and wants us to be in His presence…that’s why He sent His Son*

*“May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be you with all”*

**Questions for Discussion**

•Reflect on Heidelberg Cathechism Q. 1 and share your thoughts as to how it is a picture of the humility of our Lord and how we should respond to Him.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A.: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. In fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

•When we think of God’s attributes, we usually think of His holiness, power, sovereignty. How does recognizing the humility of God’s heart move your heart?