

The Humility of Christ.

One of my favorite passages in the Scriptures is Philippians 2.1-11. Here it is in its entirety:

“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:1-11, NRSV).

An interesting exercise for us, as we seek to follow Jesus Christ as His disciples, is to re-write this hymn, inserting ourselves into the words. I would invite you to work your way prayerfully and reflectively through the poem below, inserting in the blank areas items that relate to your own experience. Reflect on how in your own life you are following Jesus Christ in a ministry and life that involves the emptying of self and humbling of self. This can be a very personal exercise, so I would suggest that you keep the results to yourselves, or only share the results with someone you trust deeply.

“Though I be

I do not regard as something to be grasped at,

But emptied myself of

And taking the form of

Being found formed in the likeness of

I humbled myself,

and am obedient to the experience of

And am even obedient to

This I do so that

This I do for the honor and glory of”