

Small Group Questions

Philippians 2:3-8

Paul's objective in this section of Philippians was to encourage Christlike humility and servanthood towards others. As you discuss the following questions keep in mind the questions prompted by Philippians 2:5: What is the mind of Christ and how will possessing the mind of Christ resolve selfishness and pride?

1. What can we learn about Jesus Christ in these verses?
2. Consider "Step 1" of God's condescension.
 - a. What did we learn about Jesus' refusal to grasp at divine rights and prerogatives?
 - b. Did Jesus ever use divine power while on earth? Why or why not?
 - c. Why was Jesus willing to use divine power to make bread out of nothing for hungry people, but not do so for himself during his 40 days in the wilderness?
 - d. Look at the word "count" in verse 6 and verse 3. What do you think Paul wants us to see in the usage of that word?
3. Consider "Step 2" of God's condescension.
 - a. Can you think of what Jesus emptied himself of when he became a man?
 - b. "Emptied" in verse 7 and "conceit" in verse 3 have the same root word (kenow). In verse 7 the word was used to describe Jesus' emptying of self. In verse 3 Paul was warning against making much of self. What do you think of this contrast?
4. Consider "Step 3" of God's condescension.
 - a. Why is it important that Jesus is fully Man? Hebrews 2:14, 17-18
5. Consider "Step 4" of God's condescension.
 - a. How was Jesus' condescension obedience to God? John 6:38
 - b. How was Jesus' condescension obedience (in a sense) to man? Romans 5:19; Matthew 20:28
6. How do these 4 verses (2:5-8) affect your view of God? How could you use this passage to help an unbelieving friend better understand the character of God?