



September 27, 2026 | **Become Nothing** | Pastor Eddie Eddy

Philippians 2:1-13

New International Version

2 *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, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

¹² *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God

“Become Nothing”

When God created us...he looked at us and he called us very good. Everything in creation was good...but us humans...made in his image... were called very good. With that kind of a beginning...you wouldn't think that this thing called life should be so difficult. So why do we cause so much strife in our life. As the ones given dominion over this creation... living peacefully together should come naturally to us.

Afterall, we are all born as little babies who don't know a thing and are completely dependent on our mothers. We are all made of the same stuff...the same dirt was used to form our flesh, our blood, and our bones. Most of us start out with similar equipment...arms, legs, a brain. Some are special and come into this world with out those things and as God's children...we have the same opportunity to help those who have some challenges.

We also share some other traits...we all have fears, flaws, and insecurities. We all get lonely. We all get hurt. We all bleed. We all get sick. And weather we want to or not...We all will die.

Short Pause

Why, then, why is one of the greatest challenges for our species...why is it so hard to be truly humble? Jesus has told us that “Blessed are the Meek for they will inherit the world.” Yet there are some folks that we have to be in relationship with that just crave power and control. Sadly...sometimes they may not even realize it and they end up hurting people with their underlying insecurities masked under authority and control.

In our passage this morning we get a very powerful example of what true humility and humbleness are to look like. The call for humility is one of the core teachings of Jesus.

PAUSE

Over and over again in the Gospels, Jesus told His disciples that the first shall be last, the least shall be the greatest, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Most of us, I think, would nod our heads in agreement with what Christ says and yet we tend to spend most of our lives working to achieve the opposite of humility. We strive for recognition, exceptionalism, and elitism. We were taught and we teach our own children that they need to take control of their surroundings and that they are in charge of their lives. We too often share a message or exhibit behavior that implies the opposite of humility and humbleness.

Think about it...we talk about equality but when we compare ourselves to the world around us...We don't want to be like others—we want to be above them. Our societies' value system rewards materialism, competitiveness, and prominence while humility is often perceived as a weakness.

And yet our Scripture passage for this morning tells us the exact opposite.

PAUSE

You see...the Philippian Church was mostly a pretty good church. When Paul introduced the Gospel message to them...They had received God passionately...even enthusiastically. They had sent Paul a gift when they heard he was imprisoned in Rome.

And that is where Paul was when he wrote this letter.

The only concern or worry Paul seemed to have about this church was that some kind of dispute or feud was taking place between two women whom he mentions by name in Chapter 4. "I plead with [them]," Paul writes, "to agree with each other in the Lord."

So that is what Paul has on his mind as he writes our passage for today: I want us to hear it again. This is the same passage but from the Message version:

2 1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Wow.

Jesus ...who was there at the creation...who had complete control over all of creation...who could heal the sick...who restored sight to the blind...who raised people from the dead...**became nothing**. He became powerless...stripped naked in front of his mother and humbly shed his life-giving blood down the wooden columns he was nailed to...and he did that as a blameless human. That is beyond any humility that **any of us** would be willing to endure.

PAUSE

That is a high calling, way too high for us to fathom. But our lesson for today is a reminder that we can and should be humbled by what Jesus did for us. We need a double dose of humility and humbleness. Because...that is the only way the Church is going to get along, move forward, and be Christ for our lost and hopeless world.

It's the only way that the Church is going to avoid being destroyed by infighting and disputes. We are called to Be like Jesus!" and **become nothing**.

PAUSE

The story is told that one evening a man in a Dearborn, Michigan restaurant bumped into the famous Chrysler Chairman, the late Lee Iacocca. "Oh, Mr. Iacocca," the man exclaimed, "what an honor to meet you!"

Say, my name is Jack and I'm having a business dinner with some colleagues over there at that corner table. It would really impress my friends if you could come over in a few minutes and say, 'Hi, Jack,' like you know me."

Generously, Iacocca agreed to do it and so a few minutes later he went over to the table and said, "Hello, Jack! How are you?"

Jack looked up and snapped, "Not now, Lee. We're busy!"

PAUSE

This story underscores the essence of pride and selfishness: we want to look more powerful and impressive than we really are, no matter who we might hurt in the process. Or at the very least we want to take what we already have in life and use it as a self-built temple...where people can look up to us while we look down on others.

Why do we do this? It's a lack of humility.

Why do we fight and demand our way? Why do we hold grudges? Why do we find it hard to forgive those who hurt us? It's a lack of humility.

PAUSE

The great irony and beauty of the Christian faith is the gospel truth that the One Being in the universe Who really is more exalted, more lofty, and more powerful than anyone is the same Being Who, far from using His high position as a platform for pride, stooped lower than low...became nothing...to humbly save a species that searches for ways to exalt themselves. .

Philippians Chapter 2 reminds us just how much Jesus gave up in order to join us in this life we lead. At a minimum, He gave up the glories of heaven in favor of a world of constant complainers.

Day after day Jesus looked into the eyes of the people He created... and he couldn't find even the faintest spark of recognition that their Sovereign Creator was standing in their midst.

Day after day Jesus lived on a planet He Himself had lovingly shaped at the dawn of time, only to see all around Him signs of decay, death, sorrow, and sin.

And yet..."Being in very nature God...**he made himself nothing**," Paul informs us. And He did it all out of a humble, self-emptying love that goes beyond anything we can ever wrap our heads around.

He did all this because He loves us. He did all this to save us. He didn't have to, but He did.

PAUSE

Paul writes to us this morning, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." When you wake up in the morning is that your prayer? When you go to bed at night...is that your prayer? Could you live as a submissive servant to Christ? Is that enough for you? Is the value you place on your own needs to assume control and power hurting the people around you and even the ministry of the church? Or...would praying to become nothing actually be the most fulfilling thing you could do for yourself?

PAUSE

Will you pray with me? Almighty God, Your ways are so different than our ways. You became nothing for us.

So, we ask that you work in us, transform us, humble us, and give us a love for You and for others that is out of this world, a love that is like Jesus Christ Who lived, died, and was Resurrected for this purpose.

In our relationships with one another, give us the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Lord Jesus, please give us YOUR compassion. Give us YOUR attitude; YOUR strength, YOUR humility, YOUR love, YOUR mind.

Help us to see the value you place on us becoming nothing. To God be the Glory. And all God's people said, "Amen"