



The Lord Who Chose to Serve

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260930/>

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:3-8

What a beautiful instruction! Paul tells us, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves” (Philippians 2:3). Can you imagine what life would be like if we always treated one another that way? Instead of scrambling to be first, we would gladly serve others.

That sounds wonderful, but everyday life reveals our sin. In our families and with our friends, we often want to be first. We want others to serve us, listen to us, forgive us quickly, and notice the nice things we have done. Instead of having the mind of Christ, our sinful minds turn inward and focus on ourselves.

God’s law acts like a mirror. It shows us our pride and selfishness—not to make us despair of God’s mercy, but to lead us to repentance. We can say honestly, “Lord, I have not loved my family as you have loved me. I have been proud, selfish, impatient, and slow to forgive.” Repentance is not pretending our sin is small. It is agreeing with God that our sin is real and trusting in his mercy.

(Continued on Next Page)

Philippians 2 does not end with our failure. God’s Word lifts our eyes to Jesus. The Son of God humbled himself for proud sinners. He became a servant for people who want to be served. He obeyed perfectly in our place. Then he carried all our selfishness, pride, anger, and impatience to the cross.

Jesus, the Lord of all, chose to serve us by giving his life for us. The Father then raised and exalted him. One day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

We do not confess our sins to convince God to be gracious. God has already shown us his grace in Christ. Because Jesus has forgiven us, we can admit when we are wrong. We can forgive one another. We can put aside our pride and serve someone else.

What a beautiful way to live! How can we express it in even the smallest and simplest of ways? May the Lord who chose to serve us now give us humble, loving hearts that choose to serve others.

Questions to Consider:

- How did Jesus serve and save us?
- What are some examples of humility that Jesus showed on the day he was crucified either in his words or actions?
- The mirror of God's law shows our sin. What does God's law show us about our pride and selfishness?
- How does forgiving someone, like a sibling or friend, place their needs before ours?
- How are humility and repentance connected?
- Think of a recent situation that might have gone differently if you had put another person's interests before your own. What could you have done?