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**"Humility captures Christ's attention because it shows Him our willingness to live a spiritual life. And a spiritual life means denying oneself for the love of God."**

[Walter Kahler]

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

What is one thing you want to do differently OR one area you want to grow in this year?

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.  
Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds."*

[Psalm 149:4-5]

## BIG IDEA

In this new year, God is still God, His word is still His word, His Spirit still dwells within us, and we are still invited to become more like Jesus.

## PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Philippians 2:1-18

1. What stood out to you most about this passage?
2. In the sermon we heard, *"Our sacred union with Christ changes our outlook on our past, present, and future."* How did you experience that to be true in the past year?
3. What does Paul mean by "thinking the same way" and "having the same love"? How is this unity connected to Christ and His example?
4. What is the significance of God exalting Jesus? How does this exaltation connect to His humility and obedience?
5. Paul instructs believers to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." How does this align with God working in them?
6. Paul calls believers to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit". How can we embody this humility in our relationships to one another and those around us?
7. Paul exhorts the Philippians to rejoice, even amid suffering. How can we cultivate a culture of joy, regardless of circumstances?

8. What areas in your life reflect the humility of Christ? Where might you struggle to adopt His mindset?
9. What does it mean for you to “shine like a star” in your current environment? How can you be a light for Christ where you live and work?
10. Paul encourages believers to “hold firmly to the word of life”. How have you done that well in the past year? What new practices can help you stay grounded in God’s Word amid distractions?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Our faith lacks power, when we admire Jesus instead of imitating Him. *What would be the impact on our lives if we adopted the attitude of Jesus?* Based on what we’ve read and discussed today, what is a step of obedience you can take this week in this area? How might God be calling you to ...

- a more committed union with Christ?
- be more unified with your church family?
- imitate and adore Jesus more fully?

## PRAYER FOCUS

### Growing in Christ in the New Year

- As we step into this new year, let’s rest in the unchanging truth that God is still faithful, good, and sovereign. His word remains true and steadfast. His Spirit still dwells within us, guiding and empowering us. And we are still graciously invited to become more like Jesus each day.
- Let’s pray together, thanking God for His constant presence and asking for His help to deepen our faith and trust in Him this year. Let’s commit ourselves to His word, His Spirit, and His work in transforming us into the likeness of Christ.