

January 20, 2012

Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this... We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time and united for eternity. (Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, p. 21)

“Christianity works by a moral accounting system. Immoral deeds are debits; moral deeds are credits. If you have a big enough positive balance of moral credit when you die, you go to heaven. If you have a negative balance, you go to hell. These general notions are shared by most forms of Christianity.” (George Lakoff, *Moral Politics*)

Thus, in this first clause of 2:5 Paul is urging the Philippians to adopt that common *phronēsis*, or practical reasoning, that he has argued for in 2:1–4. This pattern of practical reasoning involves a common perspective on their situation and how it fits into the divine economy and the practical implications of that perspective. We might do well to follow Wayne Meeks’s paraphrase: “Base your practical reasoning on what you see in Christ Jesus.” In my translation I have amplified this to note that practical reasoning is a pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting. (Fowl, p. 90)

How beautiful you appear to the angels, Lord Jesus, in the form of God, eternal, begotten before the daystar amid the splendors of heaven, the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature, the unchanging and untarnished brightness of eternal life! How beautiful you are to me, my Lord, even in the very discarding of your beauty! When you divested yourself of the native radiance of the unfailing light, then your kindness was thrown into relief, your love shone out more brightly. (Bernard of Clairvaux’s homilies on the Song of Songs, quoted in Fowl.)

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Apostle’s Creed

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Philippians 2.1-11*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, [if] any comfort from love, [if] any participation in the Spirit, [if] any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon

How God Speaks Imperatives

1. To What We are Called
2. How God Calls Us to It
 - a. “If - Then,” v.1.
 - b. “The One who Came, Suffered, and Rose,” v.5-11.

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, we confess that parts of us would rather that you just command and we try hard. Out of pride, we say, "We can do it." With mere effort, "We will get close enough." And if not, in conceit we say, "We know better." But you hardly ever just command. You point to your Son and His work for us, and *You* say, "Look to Him; Live out of Him; Embrace Him in both your success and failure." That is Your call in the life of faith. He is Your means for all our faithfulness to You.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3.20, 21)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2:16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Grace Hill Financial Information (some numbers are preliminary before accounting reports are done):

- Average Monthly expenses: \$14,400
- December 2012 giving: 25,504
- 2012 monthly external giving (ends 12/12): 1,667
- December 2012 balance \$12,771
- Average Monthly 2011 giving: 11,621
- Average Monthly 2012 giving: 13,664
- YTD basic operating budget balance: \$8056

Giving Units (gave more than \$250 total last year):

2011: 32 units, gave average \$4607.

2012: 31 units, gave average \$5063.

Grace Hill Working Budget 2012:

Rent + Utilities	31,600
Salary	73,000
Benefits	23,840
SG baby sitting supplement	2,040
Insurance	800
Phone	600
Books (GH and Ross)	1,200
Children's Ministry	1,200
Cleaning	2,220
Worship supplies	1,200
Outreach	3,000
Misc: food, building items, etc.	3,000
Total	143700
Total w/ Mission Giving (20%)	172440