

PUTTING OTHERS SECOND

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

BACKGROUND: “Genuine humility involves believers’ not thinking too highly of themselves and requires that they **regard one another as more important than themselves.**” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Philippians, p. 113.

REVERSE IT. “The unbeliever naturally puts himself first, others second, and God last. He thinks he merits the order. The Bible teaches that we should reverse the series: God is to be first; others must be second; we must come last.” James Montgomery Boice, Philippians, p. 103. **(Philippians 2:3, fn 2:1-5, Galatians 5:16-23, fn 5:16-18, fn 5:19-21, Romans 12:9-16, fn 12:10, fn 12:16)** *What would you have to give up to put others second?*

PRACTICE THIS. “Since Christ *humbled himself*, followers of Christ seek to practice humility in their attitudes and actions to others. Paul explains to his readers that the way to practice humility is to *value others above yourselves.*” G. Walter Hansen, The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter to the Philippians, p. 115. “Let the needs and interests of others surpass yours: put them in first place; give them the place of honor; respect them; listen to them; speak about them; serve them; strengthen them; encourage them.” Hansen, p. 116. **(Philippians 2:3-4, fn 2:3, Galatians 5:25-6:4, fn 5:26, fn 6:1-3)** *What is necessary for you to practice humility?*

COMMIT TO FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS. Early morning solitude in God’s Word with a warm cup of coffee or tea can provide an atmosphere where no thought is given to the demands of the day. In time, when that happens, you sense the Lord’s presence; and you realize that there is no better joy than experiencing His life in you. You will be able to put God first, others second, and yourself last. This is our calling! **(Philippians 3:7-14, fn 3:8, fn 3:9-10, fn 3:12-14, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:16)** *How and when could you have daily fellowship with the Lord?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?