

# Philippians: Gospel Partnership

## The Name Above All Names

Philippians 2:9-11 ESV Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**BIG IDEA:**  
 Because of Jesus' work of redemption, God the Father has exalted him and given him the name above all names. We should submit to and declare his lordship.

Intro

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

↳ confession of the early church

↳ what would our confession be?

⇒ "GOD IS LOVE"

⇒ This is true, but it's problematic

- 1) IT SAYS TOO MUCH - GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE THE SAME
- 2) IT SAYS TOO LITTLE - IT DOES NOT INDICATE WHAT GOD'S LOVE LOOKS LIKE

3) IT ISN'T EXPLICITLY CHRISTIAN

⇒ the early church had it right

↳ SHOUT IT AT WORK, OR SCHOOL

Two Divine and Determined Responses

Therefore = what follows is the result of Christ's humble sacrifice

1) God has highly exalted Jesus

9 - THEREFORE GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM

- Exalted is ~~to~~ raised Jesus to the loftiest level
- Transition – humiliation to exaltation - *roller coaster - rhythm of life*
- Luke 14:11 ESV For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- The resurrection and ascension are presupposed
- If God the Father's response in seeing Christ's humiliation is to exalt him, what should our response be?

*Do we raise Jesus to the highest level ... in our words... corporate & individual  
 ... in our thoughts  
 ... in our actions → what does this look like?*

2) God bestowed on Jesus the name that is above every name

9 - THEREFORE GOD HAS ... BESTOWED ON HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME

- Organizational flow chart *"filling of the castle" →*
- A name greater than the pantheon of Roman gods
- A name greater than Ceasar's
- What is the name?

*Jesus?  
 Christ?  
 God?  
 Lord? ⇒ YAHWEH - the covenant name of God*

The Greatest Name

The theme of the making of a great name runs the length of the

Bible's storyline: *One way to look at the Biblical narrative is to say that God is looking for a faithful son who could fulfill all His plans He made for mankind. This faithful son is an obedient & loving son whom the father would make great on the earth.*

- **Babel: Genesis 11:1-4 ESV** [1] Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. [2] And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. [3] And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. [4] Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."
- **Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3 ESV** [1] Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- **David: 2 Samuel 7:8-9 ESV** [8] Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. [9] And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

*these great ones failed*

Jesus is the greatest of all great names. Greater than Abraham; greater than David.

The contrast of humble sacrifice and exalted greatness:

## The Admirable Conjunction of Diverse Excellencies in Christ Jesus

There do meet in Jesus Christ infinite highness and infinite condescension.

Christ, as he is God, is infinitely great and high above all. He is higher than the kings of the earth; for he is King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is higher than the heavens, and higher than the highest angels of heaven. So great is he, that all men, all kings and princes, are as worms of the dust before him; all nations are as the drop of the bucket, and the light dust of the balance; yea, and angels themselves are as nothing before him. He is so high, that he is infinitely above any need of us; above our reach, that we cannot be profitable to him; and above our conceptions, that we cannot comprehend him ... Christ is the Creator and great Possessor of heaven and earth. He is sovereign Lord of all. He rules over the whole universe, and doth whatsoever pleaseth him. His knowledge is without bound. His wisdom is perfect, and what none can circumvent. His power is infinite, and none can resist Him. His riches are immense and inexhaustible. His majesty is infinitely awful.

And yet he is one of infinite condescension. None are so low or inferior, but Christ's condescension is sufficient to take a gracious notice of them. He condescends not only to the angels, humbling himself to behold the things that are done in heaven, but he also condescends to such poor creatures as men ... Yea, which is more, his condescension is sufficient to take a gracious notice of the most unworthy, sinful creatures, those that have no good deservings, and those that have infinite ill deservings.

... His condescension is great enough to become their friend, to become their companion, to unite their souls to him in spiritual marriage. It is enough to take their nature upon him, to become one of them, that he may be one with them. Yea, it is great enough to abase himself yet lower for them, even to expose himself to shame and spitting; yea, to yield up himself to an ignominious death for them. ...

Such a conjunction of infinite highness and low condescension, in the same person, is admirable.

OR LIST  
DIVERSE  
EXCELLENCIES

## Two Human and Inescapable Outcomes

"In the name of Jesus" is what these outcomes are related to

## 1) Every knee should bow

10 - SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH

- Submission to one greater in authority, honour, and status
- Heaven/earth/under the earth = universe, all creation, every angel and man
- "The unmistakable point being made is that all of creation will one day recognize the universal and sovereign reign of the exalted Jesus Christ. What believers already joyfully proclaim through their transformed lives and corporate worship will one day be acknowledged by all."
- Do our lives proclaim this?
- John Newton: "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

*↑ Can people say of you, "He/she is not what they once were and it is the grace of God which has done this."*

## 2) Every tongue will confess

11 - AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

- Declare openly in acknowledgement
- This was the central confession of the early church; Jesus is Lord
  - Trouble with Jews
  - Trouble with Romans
- What is our central confession? God is love.

## GOSPEL

"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

This truth is a great joy to believers who already experience the rule and reign of Christ because they have previously bowed their knees in submission and confessed with their tongues that Jesus is Lord. And our hearts yet long for the day when the universal reign of Christ is consummated in every corner of the universe, when all creation will acknowledge what we know to be true.

At the same time, [this truth constitutes a solemn warning and appeal to the unbeliever.] [Paul excludes none:] every knee will bow, and every tongue confess. This would include [those who do not currently acknowledge Christ's lordship.] In anticipation of that final Day, [we plead with non-believers to bow the knee and confess the lordship of Jesus Christ now] in repentance and faith so as to enjoy God's salvation, before it is too late. If they do not, [they will have no choice but to bow the knee in utter terror as they see that the risen and exalted Christ is not only the true Lord of this universe, but also their righteous judge.]

Will you bow your knee? Will you confess with your mouth? Among many other reasons you ought to do this is the blindingly beautiful fact that "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. (Philippians 2:5-8 ESV)

*Why did he die on a cross?  
Because of our sin, which separates us from God*

### The Greatest Purpose

The great purpose of this universal acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ is the glory of God!

Church, we give God glory when we proclaim with our words the highly exalted Jesus who is above every other name. We do this when our lives demonstrate submission and devotion to the humble one who has been exalted. Let's proclaim the gospel of the lordship of Christ with our mouths and let's live our lives in light of this truth.

demonstrate  
our  
submission  
to  
his  
lordship

If you are not a believer, let me exhort you to glorify God through your submission to and confession of Jesus Christ the Lord, the Son of God who became a man and was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross that he might reconcile you to God.

Recognize his lordship!



Take up the  
confession  
"Jesus is lord"