



## “JOY in Conflict” Philippians 2:1-11

Conflict resolution skills are in short supply in our American Culture. Does the Bible offer any help for our relational conflict, divisiveness, hatefulness, and alienation that we see in our country, communities, homes, marriages, and even in churches? Yes, the joy in Conflict is found in Christ and the unity He brings.

### What are the Motives for Conflict Resolution? vv1-2

- A heart filled with pleasure in the eternal privileges we have in Christ. v1; Rom5:1
- Our vital union and communion with Christ will produce a passion for unity. v2; John 17

### What are the Marks of Conflict Resolution? vv3-4

- Humility as opposed to Pride. v3a; Gen2:25, 3:7-8; James 4:1-2; Rom12:3
- Selflessness as opposed to Selfishness. vv3b-4

### What are the Means to Conflict Resolution? vv5-11

The doctrine of the Incarnation is not only the ultimate example of conflict resolution, but also the means to our conflict resolution. Rom3:18 It is in the beholding of His glory we become whole!

- Think of the glory of His Deity. vv5-6

- Think of the humility of His Birth. v7b
- Think of the humility of His Life. v7a, Isa53:2
- Think of the humility of His Death. v8; Isa52:14; Matt27:46
- Think of the glory of His Exaltation. vv9-11

You and I are desperate to fill ourselves with glory, but we end up empty. Jesus Christ emptied Himself of glory so that we could be full. And because we have fullness in Christ we can empty (humble) ourselves so that others can be full in Him.

### Growing Notes

- 1) How important are conflict resolution skills in relationships? Relationships don't put us in conflict with others as much as they put us in conflict with our own sinful nature (Pride). Explain. Why is conflict resolution a healthy marker in the soundness of relationships?
- 2) Read Philippians 2:1-11. What stands out to you from this text? What is the big idea of this text (Subject)? What is he saying about the big idea of the text (Explanation)?
- 3) What are the Motives for conflict resolution (vv1-2)? Why do you think conflict resolution begins with you filling your heart with the pleasures of your eternal privileges in Christ (v1)? This is not unity at the expense of truth but unity around the truth filled with love and deep affection for one another (v2). Explain.
- 4) What are the Marks of Conflict Resolution (vv3-4)? What is the difference between humility and pride (v3) and selflessness and selfishness (v4) when it comes to conflict resolution?
- 5) What are the Means to Conflict Resolution (vv5-11)? Why is the doctrine of the Incarnation (God becoming man) not only the ultimate example of, but also the means to conflict resolution? How did Jesus empty Himself of His glory (vv6-8)? How will that fill us so that we can empty ourselves for others fullness in Christ? Pray.