

My Always Being Loved Brothers and Sisters,

If I may appeal to you out of our union with Christ, if there is any genuine compelling and persuasive power in our holy passion for oneness, if we really do share life in common (that is far from common!) in God's Spirit, if we truly possess any of the tenderness and compassion of Christ, please fill my cup with God's joy by seeking an honest-to-goodness communion with one another. Take everything Christ has freely given you inner-personally - which you so richly enjoy - and freely contribute it to an inter-personal community of shared life, making certain you are completely in step with God's intent and action to graciously and enduringly love others into being. Listen for His heart beating for unity, His mind directing yours toward oneness of purpose.

Then, my divinely indwelt friend, you can stop choosing and acting from self-serving motives and for self-interested causes. There will be no need to elevate yourselves in order to either impress others or correct them. Instead, you will be free to go as low as necessary to humbly treat one another as more important than yourselves or your demands. You will even see how to use your superior knowledge to make the needs of others superior to your own. If, for you, living actually means Christ (and is not just a fantasy) you need not be all that concerned with your own interests - Christ has them fully covered! You may make it your intentional practice to put the interests of others before and above yours - and then personally discover how His Life for others practically flows through you.

My precious saint, since you already have the very mind of Christ, set your mind to join His so that His loving intelligence shapes all your patterns of thinking and choosing. Think as He thought - although He had every privilege of glory in His eternal oneness with all that is God, thought it robbery to keep such privileges exclusively to Himself. Rather than grasp such priceless privileges and fully cling to them for self-serving purposes (selah - a divine wait a minute), He voluntarily gave up the right to do so in order to be and do for us what we so desperately needed.

In other words, my dear holy one, He did not use His status with God - His status as God- to keep His distance from us, to look down on us from afar, to highlight our wrongness. Instead, He graciously poured out all that was within Himself for our sakes. He went so far as to become like us - fully human - in order to enter into our very condition so that He could once and for all deliver us from our predicament. Deity and humanity in perfect union became a slave - paying whatever price necessary so that we might go free... even the price of death, a shameful death on a cross. (A stunning thought that will cause us to rethink everything!)

As a result, His willingness to go so low caused His Father to raise Him so high - higher than any other ever named. In order to honor His saving name and His sacrificial nature, would you bow with me before Him anew - letting everything about you declare with your lips and with your life that He is Lord? Would you also dare to go as low as He before our fellow men, so our Father may lift us up into the stream of His eternal purposes which no created thing can stop?

For only in such a low place, my fellow bond slaves in Christ, will we ever begin to work out all of the glorious deliverance He has already worked into us. This is His will. This is His doing. This is our God!

*Your Brother in Christ
(Philippians 2:1-13)*