

**THE WITNESS OF THE CROSS**  
Philippians 2:3-11

The God-Like, Christ-Formed, Spirit-Led Life Can Only Be Lived One Way...

...voluntarily surrendered to God -    (Matt 22:37-40)

...voluntarily poured out to others - 

(This is the "witness" wherever the Crucified, Risen Christ is ruling and reigning!)

**"ALTHOUGH"** - "He existed in the form of God" (Phil 2:6)  
...all the prerogatives, privileges, and freedoms of pre-existing Divinity

**"HE DID NOT"** - "regard His equality with God a thing to be grasped" (Phil 2:6)  
...for personal advantage whatsoever

**"BUT (Rather)"** - "He emptied Himself" (Phil 2:7)  
...poured out His Life as a human slave unto death on the cross

<u>EXAMPLES</u>	<u>"ALTHOUGH"</u>	<u>"DID NOT"</u>	<u>"BUT RATHER"</u>
<b>Paul:</b> (Phil 1:23-25)	"more profitable to die"	"choose in my best interest"	"I will stay in the fight for your sake"
(I Thess 2:6-11)	"status/authority of an apostle"	"use that position to 'lord' it over you"	"gently treated you as our children, shared our lives with you"
(I Cor 9:1-23)	"throw our weight around as apostles"	"assert our rights, use privileges for self-service"	"made ourselves as your slaves"
<b>Philippians:</b> (Phil 2:1-11)	"God is in you; may be right..."	"think with reference to yourself..."	"in humility put interests of others above your own"
<b>Corinthians:</b> (I Cor 12:1-31)	"given many gifts"	"get all puffed up, draw attention to yourselves"	"celebrate everyone's gifts and use them all for common good"
<b>Macedonians:</b> (II Cor 8:1-15)	"in deep poverty, severe affliction"	"use that as an excuse"	"gave liberally, above and beyond means"
<b>Marriage:</b> (Eph 5:22-33)	"Husbands, may be head of household..."	"exploit, take advantage of that (abuse, oppress)"	"sacrificially love wives, grant them honor..."
	"Wives, although no male, female in Christ..."	"exploit, take advantage of that (disrespect, usurp)"	"submissively love, respect your husbands..."

All of these are the witnesses of our Crucified, Risen Savior... BEING HIMSELF through believers!

...life "ala Christ"

...What about us?

**"ALTHOUGH"**

"perfectly free to live with no fear of condemnation/rejection..."

"Have everything pertaining to life and godliness..."

"My judgment of another (behavior/motives) is accurate..."

"Have legitimate reasons to be angry with \_\_\_\_\_"

"Have done everything supposed to do (= 'first mile')..."

**"DO NOT"**

"Use that freedom for self-pleasing pursuits"

"make our life/church about personal gain..."

"Use that to criticize, tear down the other"

"nurse that anger and become bitter, resentful"

"Stop at 'first mile' and close you heart"

**"BUT RATHER"**

"put the interests of others above our own"

"about edifying others"

"to address the need(s) behind their fault(s)"

"choose to forgive the other as God in Christ has forgiven me"

"enter into the 'second mile' life of Christ and go beyond what is expected"

**This Is the Way of Exaltation and Transformation - Phil 2:9**

- The life that is "raised" (= perspective)
- The life that is formed into the image of Christ (= self rule being replaced by the rule of the cross)
- This is the witness of the cross!