

# How to Prepare an Effective Sermon

## How to Prepare a Sermon

### I. Introduction

You prepare your sermon by understanding the topic God is communicating, understanding the facts that support the topic, and finding the application that is most needed by your congregation. Then you create an introduction and conclusion that best fit the topic, facts, and application that God has revealed to you. Of course the order that you will preach your sermon is:

1. Introduction
2. Topic
3. Main Facts (Including cross references and illustrations)
4. Application
5. Conclusion (Including summary statement)

### II. How to Prepare a Sermon

#### A. Topic

The sermon topic is the main idea or title of a passage of scripture.

#### B. Main Facts

The main facts of a Bible passage support the topic in the passage. The facts explain or prove the topic. You can also add cross references and illustrations to support your facts. Jesus constantly used illustrations so that His audience would understand principle or point He was trying to make.

#### C. Summary Statement

The summary statement is a short sentence that contains the topic and main facts of the Bible passage.

#### D. Application

There can be many applications for each topic. However, you should choose the application that is needed the most by your congregation. Many pastors just exhort their audience to apply God's Word to their lives. If you don't explain how to apply God's Word, people become frustrated and develop spiritual apathy instead of spiritual growth. You must provide a way for people to put God's Word into practice in their lives. For example, if the application is to encourage people to read God's Word, don't just challenge them to read God's Word but offer them a Bible reading plan, a way to have an accountability partner, etc. You could also commit to the Bible reading plan yourself and give periodic reports to encourage people to follow through with the reading plan. Application is the most important part of your personal Bible study and your preaching and teaching.

#### E. Introduction

Start your sermon by explaining the need that the sermon will address. Many times the introduction is a story illustrating the need. People will identify with you if the story is from your own life. The message topic or lesson idea should be given in the introduction. The introduction should also connect with people at an emotional level. A good introduction will get the attention of your audience and encourage them to listen to what God has to say through you.

#### F. Conclusion

People listen to your preaching and teaching with their heads and their hearts. Good messages communicate emotions as well as information. Your conclusion will usually include a story or illustration to motivate people to put God's Word into practice in their lives. Sometimes the conclusion will have a connection with the introduction.

# Prepare a Sermon (Philippians 2:1-4)

## I. Prepare a Sermon

### A. Topic

Read Philippians 2:1-4.

What is the topic (main idea, title) for this passage?

**Joy in Unity of Spirit and Purpose**

### B. Main Facts

From verse 1 what motivates us to do what God is commanding us?

Verse 1.

If you have any:

**encouragement** from being united with Christ

**comfort** from His love

**fellowship** with the Spirit

**tenderness and compassion**

In verse 1 the Apostle Paul makes a strong emotional appeal using the blessings God has given them. Paul uses the word "if" to get their attention because he knows that the Philippians have experienced God's blessings in these areas.

This is how the Philippians understood what Paul was saying:

Since you know that you have experienced the joy of:

- **encouragement** from being united with Christ
- **comfort** from His love
- **fellowship** with the Holy Spirit
- **tenderness and compassion** for one another from the Holy Spirit

What are some cross references to verse 1?

- 1Th\_5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- Heb\_3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- Heb\_10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Rom\_15:5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, (4) who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
- 2Co\_1:7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.
- Eph\_4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- 1Co\_3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
- Joh\_14:26 But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you.

From verse 2 what does God want us to do?

### **Have unity of Spirit and Purpose**

Verse 2.

#### **Then**

make my joy complete by:

being **like-minded**

having the **same love**

being **one in spirit and purpose.**

In verse 2 Paul also uses the love relationship he has with them to make a strong emotional appeal to them. He is motivating them to be unified and tells them what they must do to have unity:

- Be like-minded by being in agreement and in harmony through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Have the same love for one another. This supernatural, Christlike, agape love.
- Be one in spirit. This means to act together as if one soul moved them.
- Be one in purpose. Focusing on the Kingdom purpose of the Great Commission.

What are some cross references for verse 2 on unity and purpose?

Unity:

- How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalms 133:1)
- May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, (Romans 15:5)
- I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)
- Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. (1 Peter 3:8)

Purpose:

- Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)
- Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39)
- It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

From verse 3 what does God want us to do to have unity of spirit and purpose?

Verse 3.

Do nothing out of **selfish ambition** or **vain conceit** (Joy in Putting Others First)

#### **But**

in **humility**

consider others better than yourselves

In verse 3 Paul tells us that being self-centered rather than Spirit-centered will destroy unity:

- Selfish ambition puts your agenda ahead of God's His purpose for the church. This leads to factions in the church which are divisive and destroy unity of purpose.

- Vain conceit seeks attention for yourself and desires praise for your accomplishments. This is self-seeking pride rather than seeking to glorify God. “Vain” means that there is no basis or substance to our pride. Our pride in ourselves rather than in God is the original sin that separated us from God and now causes disunity in our church.
- **But.** Paul uses this word to show a contrast. He has told us what destroys unity and now he will tell us how to have unity. **Humility is the requirement for unity in our church.**
- Humility is having a balanced and accurate understanding of yourself, thinking neither too highly nor too lowly of yourself. Humility doesn’t call attention to itself.
- Paul now tells us how to have humility by considering others in the church better than ourselves
  - Choose to think about how much mercy and grace God gives you and how He forgives you so much every day: Your own impure motives, evil thoughts and desires, cutting words, and sinful actions. When you see how dark your own heart is and how much grace God has given you, you will be able to give grace to others and think of them in a more positive way.
  - Choose to think about the spiritual gifts and abilities that God gave other people in the church
  - Choose to see the good things God is doing through other people in the church
  - Choose to not judge the hearts and motives of people because you don’t know what’s in their hearts. But you do know what’s in your own heart. Only God knows what is in their heart and only God can judge a person’s heart.
  - Choose to give other people in the church grace and mercy and see them the way God sees them
  - The truth is we are all unworthy sinners before a holy God. But the way to preserve unity in our church and accomplish God’s purpose is to be humble by choosing to see the good God has put in others as opposed to being critical of others.

What are some cross references for verse 3?

- Psa 25:9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
- Psa 149:4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.
- Pro 3:34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.
- Pro 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
- Pro 18:12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.
- Pro 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.
- Pro 22:4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.
- Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matthew 18:3-4 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew 23:12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
- Luk 1:52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.
- Luk 14:11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- Rom 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

- Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- Eph\_5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- James 1:9-10 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.
- Jas 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- 1 Peter 5:5-6 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- Eph\_5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

From verse 4 what does God want us to do to have unity of spirit and purpose?

Verse 4.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests

**but also**

to the **interests of others**

In Verse 4 Paul continues to tell us how to preserve unity in the church through humility.

- He is simply saying don't be focused on yourself to the exclusion of others

We cannot have this kind of Christlike humility and love of others through our own efforts. As each one of us gives the Holy Spirit control of our lives, then we can experience unity and accomplish God's purpose.

What are some cross references for Verse 4?

- Gal\_5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature
- Eph\_5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

What are some illustrations you can use for this passage?

1. Luke 22:24 The opposite of humility. The disciples argue amongst themselves about who is the greatest. We naturally compare ourselves to other people to try and see if we are better than they are. We look for faults of others so we can prove we are better than others. Real humility is not comparing or judging others but looking for ways to serve others. The opposite of humility is pride.
2. Sports teams work best when everyone works together, even though some players may be better than others. Teams where players seek fame, money and glory for themselves seldom are the best. The San Antonio Spurs have won 5 championships since 1999. Their philosophy is that each player will do whatever is needed to win, even if it means letting others have more playing time, more scoring, more recognition.

3. Luke 14:7-11 Jesus said when we are invited to a feast or party to be sure to take the lowest seat. We naturally want the best seat, the most recognition, the most privilege. Jesus says if we look to be first, we will actually be last. He doesn't mean last on earth, but last in heaven, which is the only place where our status will really matter. Those who seek to be first on earth will be last in heaven, and those who live a life of putting themselves first and display no humility may not even get to heaven!
4. In the workplace people always want to be first:
  - First in how much money they make
  - First in position
  - First in authority
  - First in power
 Humility means that in the workplace we will do our work the best we can and let God promote us. We will get along with everyone, we will be the one who encourages our fellow workers, we will be the one who looks out for others and the one who shows compassion for those that are having difficulty in life.
5. Who was the first being to lose their humility? Satan! He fell from heaven because he wanted to be equal with God, he wanted to have more power, more authority, more position. Pride was his downfall, and pride is the opposite of humility.
6. Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
 

The Pharisee thought: I am pretty good, God is lucky to have me!

The Tax Collector thought: I am a sinner, I need God to show mercy to me!

 One was proud of who and what he was, the other was humble and knew he needed God to forgive him of his sins.
7. Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 4. Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride, as shown in Nebuchadnezzar, alienate people, keeps us from God, makes us think that we are better than other people, keeps us from prayer. Nebuchadnezzar had to be brought down from his throne and humbled by God to learn this lesson. If we aren't humble, God will help us learn this lesson so we can experience more of His blessing and be better equipped to serve others.

### C. Summary Statement

What is a summary statement of Philippians 2:1-4?

**Be motivated by God's blessings  
To have unity in our church to accomplish God's purpose  
by being humble**

### D. Application

What are some possible applications from this passage?

- a. Are you experiencing a lack of unity someplace that is stealing your joy? What can you do about it?
- b. How are you being selfishly ambitious, conceited, or not considering others better than yourself?
- c. How are you putting your interests ahead of the interests of others?
- d. Think about the joy you have experienced by the following and let it motivate you to humbly seek unity in our church:
  - encouragement from being united with Christ
  - comfort from His love
  - fellowship with the Holy Spirit
  - tenderness and compassion for one another from the Holy Spirit

- e. Is there someone in the church you have a disagreement with that you need to resolve? Meet with them and resolve your disagreement by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- f. How can I encourage others in the church in order to improve unity?
- g. Is there someone in the church I am having trouble loving? Choose to love them with Christlike, agape love by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- h. Are you willing to work together in unity of the Holy Spirit with everyone in our church? What do you need to do to allow the Holy Spirit to empower you so that we can work together in unity?
- i. Are you willing to set aside you own agenda and focus on God's great Kingdom purpose of finishing the Great Commission? What do you need to do?
- j. Are you seeking attention for yourself and your ministry instead of seeking to glorify God? How can you bring attention to other ministries and ministry workers in the church that God is using to accomplish His purpose?
- k. Do you think too highly or too lowly of yourself? If you do, you lack humility and limit the power of the Holy Spirit in yourself and damage unity in our church.
- l. Do you think judgmental thoughts about others in the church? Do you talk about others in the church behind their back even in asking for prayer for them? What will you do about this?
- m. Are you too focused on yourself and not enough on others? What will you do about it?

What are some specific things your congregation can do to apply God's Word?

- a. Have a combined Disciplemaker Team and Ministry Team meeting to study and apply Philippians 2:1-4 on unity.
- b. Have a meeting that includes everyone involved in a ministry and value each ministry and show how they all work together in unity to accomplish God's purpose.
- c. Have your ministry leaders meet with their ministry teams to study and apply Philippians 2:1-4.
- d. Is there someone in the church you have a disagreement with that you need to resolve? Meet with them and resolve your disagreement by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- e. Ask your church members to search their heart

### **E. Introduction**

What are some possible introductions for this sermon?

- a. Share a story about how something someone said about someone else (gossip) let to disunity.
- b. Share a story about how selfish ambition, vain conceit, or a lack of humility damaged unity.

### **F. Conclusion**

What are some possible conclusions for this sermon?

- a. Share a story about how someone chose to be like-minded, to have a Christlike love for others in the church, and to be one in spirit and purpose and how this helped provide unity,
- b. Share a story about how someone's humility and valuing other people helped improve unity.

## **II. Sermon**

Use your sermon preparation to write an outline of your sermon in the following order:

1. Introduction
2. Topic
3. Main Facts (Including cross references and illustrations)
4. Application
5. Conclusion (Including summary statement)

# Prepare a Sermon (Philippians 2:5-11)

## I. Prepare a Sermon

### A. Topic

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

What is the topic (main idea, title) for this passage?

**God rewards us for being humble like Jesus**

### B. Main Facts

What should our attitude be from verse 5?

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

What do verses 6-8 tell us about Jesus' attitude?

Jesus had the attitude of a humble, obedient servant.

Verse 6. Although Jesus is God, he did not take advantage of this equality.

Verse 7. **But**

**he gave up all the glory of being God**

becoming a **servant**

and becoming human

Verse 8. As a man

He **humbled** himself

And became **obedient** to death

Even death on a cross

What do verses 9-11 teach us about the results of Jesus' attitude?

God exalted Jesus to the highest place, gave him the name above every name. Everyone will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

Verse 9. **Therefore** (Results of Christ's humility)

**God exalted him** to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

Verse 10. at the name of Jesus every knee should bow

in heaven and on earth and under the earth

Verse 11. and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

to the glory of God the Father

What are some cross references on humility that you can use in your sermon?

- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but **with humility comes wisdom**. (Proverbs 11:2)
- The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and **humility comes before honor**. (Proverbs 15:33)
- Humility and the fear of the LORD bring **wealth and honor and life**. (Proverbs 22:4)
- And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is **the greatest in the kingdom of heaven**. (Matthew 18:3-4)

- They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." (Mark 9:33-35)
- The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:11-12)
- For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)
- Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:14-17)
- For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3)
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (Romans 12:16)
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)
- The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. (James 1:9-10)
- But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

What are some cross references you can use in your sermon to show the rewards for being humble, obedient servants?

- "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then **he will reward each person according to what he has done.**" (Matthew 16:24-27)
- "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, **you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" (Matthew 25:34-36)
- "Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because **great is your reward in heaven.** For that is how their fathers treated the prophets." (Luke 6:22-23)
- "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then **your reward will be great,** and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." (Luke 6:35)
- "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and **each will be rewarded according to his own labor.**" (1 Corinthians 3:8)

- “You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, **you will receive what he has promised.**” (Hebrews 10:34-36)
- “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because **he was looking ahead to his reward.**” (Hebrews 11:24-26)
- “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may **inherit a blessing.**” (1 Peter 3:9)
- “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” (1 Peter 5:2-4)
- “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and **I will give you the crown of life.**” (Revelation 2:10)
- “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” (Revelation 22:12)

What are some illustrations you can use for this passage?

1. Luke 22:24 The opposite of humility. The disciples argue amongst themselves about who is the greatest. We naturally compare ourselves to other people to try and see if we are better than they are. We look for faults of others so we can prove we are better than others. Real humility is not comparing or judging others but looking for ways to serve others. The opposite of humility is pride.
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4. In the workplace people always want to be first:
  - First in how much money they make
  - First in position
  - First in authority
  - First in power
5. Humility means that in the workplace we will do our work the best we can and let God promote us. We will get along with everyone, we will be the one who encourages our fellow workers, we will be the one who looks out for others and the one who shows compassion for those that are having difficulty in life.

6. Who was the first being to lose their humility? Satan! He fell from heaven because he wanted to be equal with God, he wanted to have more power, more authority, more position. Pride was his downfall, and pride is the opposite of humility.
7. Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector  
The Pharisee thought: I am pretty good, God is lucky to have me!  
The Tax Collector thought: I am a sinner, I need God to show mercy to me!  
One was proud of who and what he was, the other was humble and knew he needed God to forgive him of his sins.
8. Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 4 Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride, as shown in Nebuchadnezzar, alienate people, keeps us from God, makes us think that we are better than other people, keeps us from prayer. Nebuchadnezzar had to be brought down from his throne and humbled by God to learn this lesson. If we aren't humble, God will help us learn this lesson so we can experience more of His blessing and be better equipped to serve others.

### **C. Summary Statement**

What is a summary statement of Philippians 2:5-11?

**God rewards us eternally for having the same attitude as Jesus  
of being a humble, obedient servant.**

### **D. Application**

What are some possible applications from this passage?

- a. Do I take advantage of my position of authority in a prideful way?
- b. Am I willing to give up the pride I have in a certain position of authority in order to be more humble like Jesus?
- c. Who do I need to serve?
- d. Where do I need to serve?
- e. What area of my life do I need to confess pride and become more humble like Jesus?
- f. What area of my life and I resisting obeying God? Confess disobedience and obey God.
- g. Give up pride, disobedience, and selfishness and experience the blessing and eternal reward of God
- h. Confess pride and disobedience and commit to humbly follow and obey Christ.

What are some specific things your congregation can do to apply God's Word?

- a. Have an altar call where people can come forward and confess pride and commit to be more humble like Jesus. You can have leaders up front to pray with people if they want to pray with someone.
- b. Have a service project where people can serve the community.
- c. Have a work project for your church building and grounds.
- d. Have sign ups to serve in specific ministries in the church such as children's ministry.
- e. Announce that the leadership teams in your church are going to have a time of prayer to humbly confess pride and recommit to serve God with joyful obedience just as Jesus did.

### **E. Introduction**

What are some possible introductions for this sermon?

- a. Share a story of a Christian leader who demonstrated Christlike humility and gave unbelievers a positive picture of believers, attracted unbelievers, and glorified God.
- b. Share a story of a Christian leader who was prideful of their position and damaged how unbelievers see Christians and how they see God.
- c. Share your own meditation on these verses about how you feel about the humility of Christ and how this motivates you to be like Him in humility.
- d. You could introduce someone who serves in your church and describe their humble service and let them share how they are blessed by serving God.

#### **F. Conclusion**

What are some possible conclusions for this sermon?

- a. Share a story about how someone chose to be like-minded, to have a Christlike love for others in the church, and to be one I spirit and purpose and how this helped provide unity,
- b. Share a story about how someone's humility and valuing other people helped improve unity.

## **II. Sermon**

Use your sermon preparation to write your sermon in the following order:

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