

A FOCUS FOR PRAYER

Philippians 2:5-11 as Covenant Commitment

by Jerry D. Keeney

The following is an approach to praying Philippians 2:5-11 – “Let this mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus...” that rephrases the prayer as a Covenant Commitment. Try it on for size, and see if it may stir something in your heart that draws you nearer to God, nearer to the mind of Christ, and ignites an energy that enhances your heart’s desire to follow in Christ’s way more and more faithfully, powerfully, and joyfully. Consider what the impact on Friedens (Peace) UCC and the wider community might be if all of us made a wholehearted commitment to praying – and living – this covenant.

I embrace that image of You, God, which I see in Christ Jesus and which, by your grace, lives at the heart of me. –

Release me from the tendency to escape my humanness by grabbing, like Adam, at the prerogatives that belong to You alone. –

I pour my energies into the service of your Reign of Love. –

I embrace both the promise and the peril of my humanness, which I share with all other humans. –

I will be sensitive and receptive to all of life’s impulses and experiences, -

responding, by your grace, in ways that are true to my nature as a person who bears your image, even if doing so should turn out to cost me dearly. –

I will seek out that beauty of your making that is to be found in every person, in every situation, in every relationship, and in every community. –

I will offer you my homage and obeisance, striving to embody faithfully and truly your sovereign beauty, --

so that you – our loving, just, and compassionate God – may shine forth through me in revelatory splendor in the midst of this world. Amen. –

“Let this mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus”

“who, though he was in the image of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (grabbed at)”

“but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant”

“being born after the likeness of humanity, finding himself in human form (in his humanness)”

“he humbled himself”

“and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.”

“For this reason, God has highly exalted him and has (given him the name which is above every name) (validated Jesus as the definitive pattern of authentic humanness),”

“so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess”

“that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”

“Amen = Let it be so.”