

Standing in Solidarity

Phil 2:1-11

nearly all Americans (95%) believe that people on opposite sides of major issues demonize each other so severely that it makes finding common ground impossible.

—Q Ideas

Jesus stands in solidarity with sinners, we can stand in solidarity w/ other saints

Christ 'consoles you with his love' (v.2)

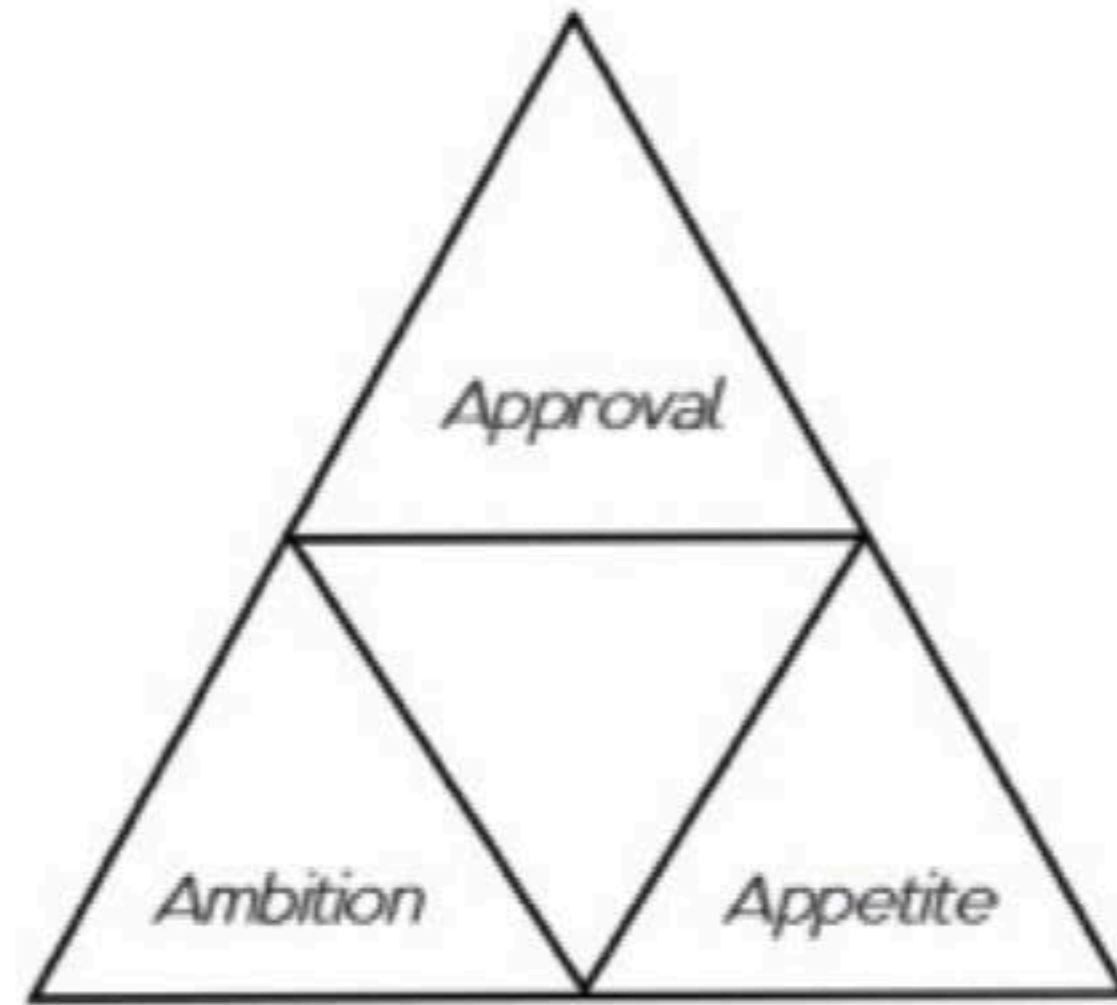
you now have oneness with God the Holy Spirit

Jesus stands in solidarity with sinners

solidarity requires two things: Lowering ourselves and
Emptying ourselves

Solidarity Requires Lowering Ourselves (v.3,8)

(v.3) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!



(v.6-11) Solidarity Requires Emptying Ourselves

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Phil 2:7-8

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

When we lower ourselves and empty ourselves we begin to find our true selves (v.9-11)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:23

‘To me and me alone, says YHWH, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall swear’).

Phil 2:3-4 (MSG)

...love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

I was speechless. The stick-man looked at me as if to say, “What will you choose to do now?” There is a tensile surface on water that’s always fascinated me. I’ve ruminated before about that infinitesimally thin layer of resistance when preparing for baptisms. Is the water giving the candidate one last chance to go back, a last-minute opportunity to pull away and say no to the intense yet life-giving drowning that lies ahead?

Or is it a reminder that there really is a separation between this fallen world and the next? As I pushed against my revulsion and plunged the sponge beneath the water, I thought of it again but refused its invitation to hold back. I'd passed through a border into the depths and found I could still breathe there. My terror and embarrassment was replaced by peace, edging toward sublime joy.

Reader:

Our Father, we are your beloved sons and daughters—
united to Jesus and to one another by trusting him alone
for our identity. We're sorry for elevating ourselves, and
preferring ourselves above others. Let the mind of Jesus
direct us to love you with all our hearts and our neighbor
as ourselves.

Response: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Reader:

Thank you that you're not the God of second chances, but the God of resurrection. You stand in solidarity with us; Fill us up so that we might be emptied out in solidarity and distinctness; in grace and in truth. Give us ears to hear and hearts to respond, Dear God.

Response: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.