

Lee Lin
NT 637/737—Philippians: Spring 2023
Professor Shawn Craigmiles
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Final Project Proposal

A. Overview: Which project (e.g., exegesis paper, PowerPoint presentation, teaching series, sermon, etc.) are you planning to do? [Exegesis Paper](#)

B. Abstract: Provide a one-paragraph summary that serves as an introductory overview for the project. What is the passage or topic to be investigated? What is the mode of delivery? What method of investigation will you employ?

This project will investigate the theme of humility and unity in Philippians 2:1-11. The goal of the study is to identify Paul's purpose for including the Christological hymn, investigate what it meant to Paul's original audience, and then apply it to our modern context. Silva's perspective on the passage was my impetus. He remarks:

If the opposition being experienced by the Philippians calls for steadfastness, if steadfastness is impossible without spiritual unity, and if unity can come about only from an attitude of humility, then surely Paul must reinforce the critical importance of humility in the heart of believers. And what better way to reinforce this thought than by reminding the Philippians of the attitude and conduct of him to whom they are united in faith? (Silva, 92)

For Silva, the opposition (outside and within) faced by the church required a response of unity. How can this church, potentially divided by many opinions, become unified? Paul's response is the humility of Christ.

The method of investigation will include original exegesis and also engagement with academic commentaries and articles. But my heart for the exegetical study is to eventually serve as a springboard for small group bible study at a future time. In our current moment, as the church

faces significant decline and cultural opposition, how can the body of Christ - already so deeply fractured by politics, race, and theology - come together? Paul's exhortation is a timely message for the American church.

C. Target Audience: What is the ministry context in which this will be delivered? Whom will the project benefit? What outcomes are you hoping to attain? What steps do you intend to take to reach these outcomes?

The exegesis paper is for personal academic study, but the hope is that this project can serve as a foundation for a future bible study on humility and unity in the future. The target is young professionals in New York City ages 25-40. This group is made up of mostly church members which means they are committed and regularly serve in our church (non-denominational evangelical). They are also generally college educated, but come from socio-economically diverse backgrounds.

D. Rationale: Why do this project in this way? What need does it meet or what problem does it help to solve? How does this project support the objectives of the course and your own educational/ministerial objectives?

My original goal was to create a powerpoint/bible study that could be incorporated in our church's spiritual formation and discipleship curriculum. But as I was researching the passage, I realized that I lacked the depth of study required to wisely put one together. This exegetical study is my attempt to approach Philippians with great academic honesty and rigor.

E. Sources/Dialog Partners: What sources have you identified as helpful for your investigation into the passage/topic you are engaging? You will identify and interact with at least six (6) academic/scholarly resources, which may include any or all of your textbooks. Provide a preliminary bibliography with all of your sources cited properly in accordance with Turabian.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., and Ralph P. Martin. *Philippians*. Revised. Vol. 43. WBC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Louw, Johannes P, and Eugene Albert Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of The New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*. 2nd ed., New York, NY: Fortress Press, 1988.

Silva, Moisés. *Philippians*. 2nd ed. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Thielman, Frank. *Philippians*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.