

A Study of Philippians 2:1-11

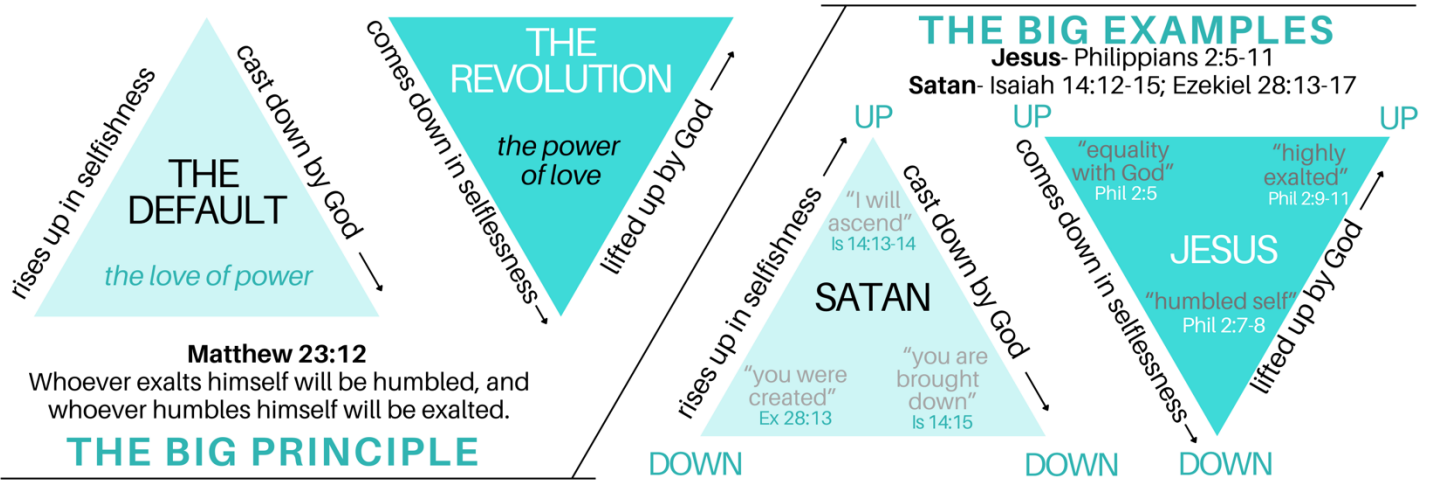
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Revolution (as defined by Merriam Webster)

a: a sudden, radical, or complete change

b: a fundamental change in political organization especially: the overthrow or renunciation of one government or ruler and the substitution of another by the governed

d: a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something: a change of paradigm



In **Philippians 2:3-4**, there are several different calls to unselfishness. What are they? What would it be like to live this way?

"I comfort myself that some of my students will teach people that ascendant behavior is disgusting to God." -Stanley Patterson

THE BAD KIND OF UP!

When God is not the one being lifted up or lifting up.

Consider Satan's example Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-17

Consider examples of this in our own lives. Mark 10:37, Luke 22:24-27

Selfishness is our default nature and the universal narrative.

THE GOOD KIND OF UP!

When God is lifted up.

What position was Jesus in before coming to earth? Phil. 2:5; John 1:1-3, 14, 15, 27, 30; Is. 9:6

THE BAD KIND OF DOWN!

When God brings you down (judgment) or when the devil brings you down (oppression).

Selfishness never ends well. Isaiah 14:15; Ezekiel 28:17, Matthew 23:12

Satan continues to pursue ascendancy now and again he will be cast down. Revelation 20:10

The power of love will defeat the love of power!

How does selfishness end for us?

THE GOOD KIND OF DOWN!

When Jesus came down for us and when we choose to humble ourselves.

Love comes down! Philippians 2:7-8; John 1:14

Selflessness is counter cultural. John 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18

Selflessness serves others. Mark 10:41-45; John 13:3; 15-17

Selflessness is life giving. Matthew 16:24-25; John 15:12-13

When John the Baptist saw the Messiah, self faded. John 1:20-23: 3:30

THE OTHER GOOD KIND OF UP!

When Jesus raises back up and when Jesus lifts us up.

Jesus didn't stay down! Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:13

Jesus lifts us up! He doesn't want us to stay down either! The call to die to self is not to limit us but to liberate us! It calls us down in order to reach the heights of selfless love.

1 Peter 5:6; John 10:10; Psalm 37:4; Isaiah 58:15; Habakkuk 3:19; Psalm 16:11

Before Lucifer sought to ascend, he had a high position. Then, it was a good thing because God ordained it (Ezekiel 28:14). It matters **who** lifts up.

When God exalts us, it's love!

When we exalt self, it's sin!

“Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name. It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life.” Ellen White, Education 154