

Philippians 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Analysis

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (καὶ πᾶσα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσεται ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρός, kai pasa glōssa exomologēsētai hoti kyrios Iēsous Christos eis doxan theou patros)—Pasa glōssa ("every tongue") parallels "every knee" (v. 10)—universal, comprehensive confession. Exomologēsētai ("should confess, acknowledge openly") is worship, not mere admission. The content: kyrios Iēsous Christos ("Jesus Christ is Lord")—likely the earliest Christian creed (Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3).

Kyrios ("Lord") is the LXX rendering of YHWH. Confessing Jesus as Kyrios is confessing deity. Purpose: eis doxan theou patros ("to the glory of God the Father")—Christ's exaltation glorifies the Father, not competing with Him. The hymn concludes: Christ's humiliation (vv. 6-8) leads to exaltation (vv. 9-11), all for the Father's glory. Trinitarian harmony: Son's obedience and exaltation glorify Father; Spirit enables confession (1 Cor 12:3). This verse completes the Christ-hymn—the highest Christology grounding the humblest ethics (vv. 3-4).

Historical Context

'Jesus is Lord' (Kyrios Iēsous) was Christianity's earliest, most essential confession. It directly challenged Caesar's claim 'Caesar is Lord' (Kyrios Kaisar), the Roman loyalty oath. Refusing this oath martyred Christians. Confessing Jesus's lordship was political subversion in the empire. The phrase also Christianized Jewish

Shema monotheism (Deut 6:4), affirming Jesus's inclusion in divine identity without compromising monotheism. This is Trinitarian theology in embryo.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean today to confess 'Jesus Christ is Lord' in a culture with competing lordships?
2. How does Christ's lordship glorify the Father rather than competing with Him?
3. What 'lordships' (career, comfort, ideology) need to bow to Christ's lordship in your life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πᾶσα	γλῶσσα	ἐξομολογήσεται	ὅτι	κύριος	Ἰησοῦς
And	that every	tongue	should confess	that	is Lord	Jesus
G2532	G3956	G1100	G1843	G3754	G2962	G2424

Χριστὸς	εἰς	δόξαν	θεοῦ	πατρός
Christ	to	the glory	of God	the Father
G5547	G1519	G1391	G2316	G3962

Additional Cross-References

1 John 4:15 (References Jesus): Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

John 13:13 (References Lord): Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

Romans 14:11 (References God): For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

1 John 4:2 (References Jesus): Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

Romans 14:9 (References Christ): For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (References Jesus): Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

John 14:13 (Glory): And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (References Jesus): But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Peter 1:21 (Glory): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Revelation 3:5 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.