

Christology as Motivation for Ethical Exhortation in 1 Peter and Philippians

By

Seong-Su, Park

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Summary and Key Words

Title: Christology as motivation for ethical exhortation in 1 Peter and Philippians

Researcher: Seong-Su, Park

Promoter: Prof. Dr. J G Van der Watt

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In 1 Peter and Philippians Christology motivates the ethical exhortation of their readers. 1 Peter uses Christology as motivation both for Soteriology and ethical exhortation, although Peter implements Christology in his Soteriology only to remind his reader of their new identity as members of the family of God through Christ's death and resurrection (1 Pet 13-17; 2:1-3). It caused them to suffer from the same society with its social and religious norms in which they previously lived, and which turned hostile towards them after their conversion. As believers, though, their life should no longer conform to the society of their pagan neighbours. They have thus unexpectedly encountered verbal abuse and physical suffering from their circumstances. The readers of Peter and Paul suffered from opponents from outside the congregation (1 Pet 2:18-20; 3:13-17; Phil 1:27-30; 2:12-18), from conflicts within the community (Phil 2:1-5), as well as from false teaching directed against Paul's gospel (Phil 3).

To resolve the matters within community and to exhort their readers to stand firm in their faith in Christ Jesus, both Peter and Paul applied Christology to guide their readers on how to conduct their life as believers in their society. Believers are called to follow in the footsteps of Christ, not merely to start the adventure of Christian living, but to persevere up to the end, to the glory of God (cf. Mtt 24:13 & Lk 21:19).

In 1 Peter, the imperative for ethical exhortative motivation are followed by the indicative of its Christology as motivation: ethical exhortation (vv 13-17) followed by Christology (1:18-21); ethical exhortation (vv 1-3) followed by Christology as example of suffering and exaltation, as well as the foundation of spiritual community of the believers (2:4-8); ethical exhortation of domestic servants (vv 18-21) followed by Christology (vv 22-25); ethical exhortation (vv 13-17) followed by Christology (vv 18-22).

In Philippians Christology stands in the center (Phil 2:6-11) as foundation of three ethical exhortations: to stand firm in their faith in Christ Jesus amidst hostile circumstances (1:27-30), to resolve conflicts among themselves (2:1-5), and to work out their salvation by trusting in God (2:12-18). In addition Paul exhorted his readers to imitate Christ, as well as himself, since his eager and absolute goal is to know Christ, the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering, as stated in Phil 2:6-11, and to rejoice in the Lord.

Both Peter and Paul's Christology have a soteriological perspective, but the Christology of both 1 Peter and Philippians focuses on the ethical motivation of their readers, to confirm their faith in Christ Jesus in their unstable circumstances.

Key Words

Christology

Ethics

Exaltation

Example

Exhortation

Faith

Joy

Resurrection

Salvation

Suffering (death)

Perseverance

Samevatting:

Titel: Christologie as motivering vir etiese vermaning in 1 Petrus en Filippense.

Navorsers: Seong-Su, Park

Studieleier: Prof. Dr. J G Van der Watt

Department: Nuwe Testament Studies

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In 1 Petrus en Filippense dien die Christologie tot etiese vermaning van hulle lesers. 1 Petrus gebruik Christologie as motivering vir beide soteriologie en etiese vermaning, hoewel Petrus slegs die Christologie in sy soteriologie gebruik om sy lesers te herinner aan hulle nuwe identiteit as lede van die huisgesin van God deur die dood en opstanding van Christus (1 Ptr 1:13-17; 2:1-3). Dit het hulle laat ly onder dieselfde gemeenskap met sy sosiale en godsdienstige norme waarin hulle eers gelewe het, en wat na hulle bekering vyandig teenoor hulle geword het. Maar as gelowiges moet hulle lewe nie meer aanpas by die samelewing van hulle heidense bure nie. Hulle is toe onverwags deur hulle omgewing oorval met skeltaal en fisiese verdurkking. Die lesers van 1 Petrus en Filippense het gely onder teenstanders van buite die gemeente (1 Ptr 2:18-20; 3:13-17; Flp 1:27-30), onder konflikte in die gemeente (Flp 2:1-5), en ook onder valse lering teen die evangelie wat Paulus verkondig (Flp 3).

Om die sake in die gemeentes op te los en om hulle lesers te vermaan om vas te staan in hulle geloof in Christus Jesus gebruik beide Petrus en Paulus juis die Christologie om aan hulle lesers leiding te gee oor hoe hulle as gelowiges in hulle gemeenskappe moet lewe. Gelowiges word opgeroep om Christus se voetstappe te volg, om nie slegs te begin op die Christelike lewe se avontuur nie, maar om tot die einde toe te volhard, tot eer van God (vgl. Mtt 24:13 and Lk 21:19).

In 1 Petrus word die imperatiewe van die etiese vermaning gevolg deur die indikatiewe van die Christologie wat hulle motiveer: etiese vermaning (1:13-17) gevolg deur Christologie (1:18-21); etiese vermaning (2:1-3) gevolg deur Christologie as voorbeeld van lyding en verhoging, sowel as die fundering van die geestelike gemeenskap van gelowiges (2:4-8); etiese vermaning tot huisbediendes (2:18-21) gevolg deur Christologie (2:22-25); etiese vermaning (3:13-17) gevolg deur Christologie (3:18-22).

In Filippense staan Christologie sentraal (2:6-11) as fundering van drie etiese vermanings: om vas te staan in hulle geloof in Christus Jesus te midde van vyandige omstandighede (1:27-30), om konflikte onder hulle as gemeentelede op te los (2:1-5), en om hulle daarop toe te lê om as verlore mense te lewe in vertroue op God (2:12-18). Daarby moedig Paulus sy lesers aan om Christus na te volg, sowel as vir hom, omdat sy enigste doel en begeerte is om Christus te ken, die krag van sy opstanding te ondervind en deel te hê aan sy lyding, soos in Fil 2:6-11 beskryf is, sowel as om hom in die Here te verlaat.

Die Christologie van beide 1 Petrus en Filippense het 'n soteriologiese perspektief, maar die Christologie van beide 1 Petrus en Filippense fokus eintlik op die etiese motivering van hulle lesers, om hulle geloof in Christus Jesus in hulle onbestendige omstandighede te bevestig.

Sleutelwoorde

Blydskap

Christologie

Etiek

Geloof

Lyding (dood)

Optanding

Verhoging

Verlossing / Redding

Vermaning

Volharding

Voorbeeld

Abbreviations

1. Abbreviations of books and series used:

ABR	Australian Biblical Review
AUSS	Andrew University Seminary Studies
Bib	Biblica
BSac	Biblica Sacra
BT	The Bible Translator
BTB	Biblical Theology Bulletin
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBQ	Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CQR	Church Quarterly Review
DBI	Dictionary of Biblical Imagery
DJG	Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels
DLNTD	Dictionary of the Later New Testament & its Development
DNTB	Dictionary of New Testament Background
DPL	Dictionary of Paul and his Letters
DTIB	Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible
EQ	Evangelical Quarterly
ERT	Evangelical Review of Theology
ExpTim	Expository Times
FN	Filología Neotestamentaria
FS	Festschrift
Greg	Gregorianum
HeyJ	Heythrop Journal
HQ	Hartford Quarterly
HTR	Harvard Theological Review
Int	Interpretation
IVPDNT	The IVP Dictionary of the New Testament
JBL	Journal of Biblical Literature
JETS	Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
JRR	A Journal from the Radical Reformation
JSNT	Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JTS	Journal of Theological Studies
LouV	Louvain Studies
LXX	Septuagint
NDBT	New Dictionary of Biblical Theology
NIDNTT	New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology
NovT	Novum Testamentum
NTS	New Testament Studies
ResQ	Restoration Quarterly
RevExp	Review and Expositor
RTR	Reformed Theological Review
SJT	Scottish Journal of Theology
ST	Studia Theologica

TBT	The Bible Today
TE	Theological Educator
TDNT	Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
TrinJ	Trinity Journal
TynB	Tyndale Bulletin
TZ	Theologische Zeitschrift
UBS	United Bible Society
USQR	Union Seminary Quarterly Review
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WTJ	Westminster Theological Journal
ZNW	Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

2. Abbreviations of Books of the Bible referred to:

Old Testament		New Testament	
Gen	Genesis	Mtt	Matthew
Ex	Exodus	Mk	Mark
Lev	Leviticus	Lk	Luke
Num	Numbers	Jn	John
Deut	Deuteronomy	Acts	Acts of the Apostles
Josh	Joshua	Rom	Romans
Judg	Judges	1 Cor	1 Corinthians
Ruth	Ruth	2 Cor	2 Corinthians
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Gal	Galatians
2 Sam	2 Samuel	Eph	Ephesians
1 Kgs	1 Kings	Phil	Philippians
2 Kgs	2 Kings	Col	Colosians
1 Chr	1 Chronicles	1 Thess	1 Thessalonians
2 Chr	2 Chronicles	2 Thess	2 Thessalonians
Ezra	Ezra	1 Tim	1 Timothy
Neh	Nehemiah	2 Tim	2 Timothy
Esth	Esther	Tit	Titus
Job	Job	Philem	Philemon
Ps	Psalms	Heb	Hebrews
Prov	Proverbs	Jas	James
Eccl	Ecclesiastes	1 Pet	1 Peter
S. of Sol	Song of Solomon	2 Pet	2 Peter
Isa	Isaiah	1 Jn	1 John
Jer	Jeremiah	2 Jn	2 John
Lam	Lamentations	3 Jn	3 John
Ezek	Ezekiel	Jude	Jude
Dan	Daniel	Rev	Revelation
Hos	Hosea		
Joel	Joel		

Am	Amos
Obad	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Mic	Micha
Nah	Nahum
Hab	Habakkuk
Zeph	Zephaniah
Hag	Haggai
Zech	Zechariah
Mal	Malachi

3. Abbreviations of other sources referred to:

Barn	Epistle of Barnabas
CD	Cairo Damascus
Dial	Dialogue
Did	Didaché
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
2 Esdr	2 Esdras
JB	Jerusalem Bible
M	Mishnah
2 Macc	2 Maccabees
4 Macc	4 Maccabees
MSS	Manuscripts
NAB	New American Bible
NEB	New English Bible
NIV	New International Version
RSV	Revised Standard Version
Sir	Sirach
TEV	Today's English Bible
Tg	Targum
Tg Onq	Targum Onqelos
Tob	Tobit
Wisd Sol	Wisdom of Solomon

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