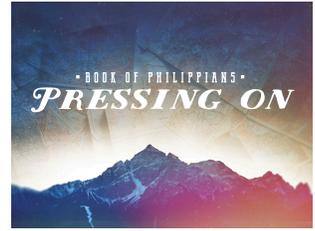


Going Deeper

Pressing On: Humility In Service

Philippians 2:1-11 / Sermon Notes



On the heels of his exhortation to the Philippian Christians to endure the joys of suffering, Paul pivots to discuss humility as it relates to the unity of the church. For Paul, unity was a vital component to a thriving and multiplying church. To make his point, Paul highlights the humility and servanthood of Jesus as a model for the kind of character we should reflect in our service towards others. A church that is focused outward, on meeting the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of others embodies the life of Christ. In one of the most poetically beautiful passages in Scripture, Jesus is exalted as the source of unity, humility, and service.

OPEN

What is one way you can put someone else's needs first this week?

STUDY

1. Spiritual maturity _____ unity.

- If there is any: Because you have *received* gifts from God, you are *responsible* to give grace towards others.
- Consolation / Comfort: "More than soothing sympathy but strengthening, helping, and making strong."
- Fellowship / Affection: The Spirit guides our lives with tender mercies, kindness, and compassion.

"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ." - 2 Corinthians 1:5

"God has loved us and given us everlasting consolation & comforts our hearts in every good work." - 2 Thess. 2:16

2. Selfishness _____ servanthood.

- Strife / selfish ambition: When we are self-absorbed, it blinds us to the needs of others.
- Esteem others: "Consider highly & favorably with respect & admiration".
- Look out: Identifying with other's needs stirs in us a compassion to help. "The saddest life is a live lived for self."
- "Pride is spiritual cancer, it eats up the very possibility of love." - C.S. Lewis

"For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." - James 3:16

"Whoever desires to be great shall be your servant, and whoever desires to be first shall be slave of all." - Mark 10:43-44

3. Jesus _____ true humility.

- Let this mind be in you: Becoming a servant begins with a *choice* to imitate Christ's humility.
- Emptied Himself: Jesus willingly and *voluntarily* relinquished his rights to *sacrificially* serve others.
- Humbled Himself: While the *cross* is the sign of submission, the *towel* is the sign of humble service.

"If I have washed your feet, you also ought to wash each other's feet, for I have given you an example." - John 13:14-15

"All of you be submissive to one another and be clothed with humility, for: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." - 1 Peter 5:5-6