

MESSAGE OUTLINE—TRUE JOY: HUMILITY
Philippians 2:1-13 (NIV)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

True Joy is realized in a community that...

- 1. Chooses humility over _____ (v. 1-4)**
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. (v. 3)

“Such unity will only come when Christians are humble and bold enough to lay hold of the unity already given in Christ and to take it more seriously than their own self-importance ... and to make of those deep differences of doctrine, (to which we might add any social issues) which originate in our imperfect understanding of the Gospel and which we dare not belittle, that these differences not be an excuse for letting go of one another or staying apart, but rather an incentive for a more earnest seeking in fellowship together to hear and obey the voice of Christ. —**Dr. Charles E. Cranfield, 1914-1915**

- 2. Chooses sacrifice over _____ (v. 5-11)**
In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus... (v. 5)

Jesus said to him... the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
Luke 19:10

- 3. Chooses surrender over _____ (v. 12-13)**
...it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. **2 Thessalonians 1:3**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2020—TRUE JOY: HUMILITY

CONNECT

- What brought you true joy this week?
- What is a weight you are currently carrying?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Lectio Divina—The practice of prayerfully encountering and surrendering ourselves to the living God through reflection on scripture. It is a way to pray and meditate on scripture, with the intention of drawing near to God. It has been used for centuries to help people grow and deepen their relationship with God. First, assign readers to read the passage aloud, pausing for 2 minutes of silence between each reading for individual reflection.

Prepare: Open with a moment of silence to settle your hearts and minds.

Reader # 1: Read Philippians 2:1-4 aloud. Pause for two minutes of silent reflection.

Reflect: How well are you doing choosing humility over self-interest? How is your choice impacting others positively or negatively?

Reader #2: Read Philippians 2:5-11. Pause for two minutes of silent reflection.

Reflect: What stands out to you about who Jesus is or what he became for us? Which means the most to you in your understanding of Jesus and your relationship with him?

Reader #3: Read Philippians 2:12-13. Pause for two minutes of silent reflection.

Reflect: What area of your life do you want to surrender to God's control today?

Silently Respond: Take a moment and write a prayer expressing your desire for humility, surrender, and unity in your relationships.

Debrief: Share any insight or idea that touched you or that motivated you during this practice.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- Read Philippians 2:1-13 aloud. What encourages or comforts you from this week's passage or message?
- What does this passage say will mark a person who lives "united with Christ"? How does this expand or explain what Paul means in Philippians 1:27-29, "to conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel"?
- What attitudes and actions produce unity in the body of Christ? What destroys unity? What impact do our actions make on people inside and outside the church?
- What does Philippians 2:5-8 say Jesus has done for us? Which are you most grateful for? Why?
- What power or privilege do you have that you would be willing to let go of for the well-being of others? Which attribute (humility, sacrifice, or surrender) are you most resistant toward?
- What does Philippians 2:9-11 say God has done for Jesus?
- How does Philippians 2 shape or strengthen your image of Jesus?
- In what way do you feel inspired or challenged to grow in your obedience to God's will?
- If a healthy spiritual life is a balance between our activity and God's activity, what is our part in promoting unity? What is God's part? How does our work and God's work combine to reveal the gospel to the world?

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Praying for one another: Looking toward the week ahead, in what situation or relationship will you need to practice humility? Ask three people to pray for one topic each: Each other, the church, and the world.

Close by praying The Lord's Prayer: Ask everyone, except one, to mute their microphone. Ask the one person to pray aloud while others pray aloud in their own space.

DAILY PRACTICE: Continue to spend time with God daily in Solitude, Scripture, and Prayer (download Reading Plan and Playlist from website to guide you). Ask God to soften your heart towards the needs of others, the church, and the world. Keep a journal of your prayers and any insights you receive in your time alone with God.