

JOY

Humility as the Antidote to Division

Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction:

We are continuing in our series in Philippians. In today's passage we are being called to **unity**. There is so much division in our world today. Many of us are longing for peace and joy but it seems elusive.

In verse Philippians 2:2 Paul states, *"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."* For those of us who are parents, we can relate to this verse. We long for our kids to stop fighting and to love each other. Our joy is complete when they get along. Similarly, the Apostle Paul longs for the church to be different than the world. He knows the power of unity that is found in Christ. The question is how do we become unified?

The humility that is found in Christ provides a model for us. As we explore this concept we will look at two ideas:

-Look at yourself less and look at others more.

-Looking at yourself less and looking at others more comes from looking at Jesus the most.

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you?

Look at yourself less and look at others more.

2. Reflect on this quote from John Stott,
"At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend"

How is pride our enemy and humility our friend?

3. Philippians 2:3,4 states,

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

What does it look like to consider the needs of others?

4. Why do we find it so difficult to consider the needs and interests of others?

5. Scotty Smith said, "You will be disappointed, you will be disappointing." How can you graciously respond to others when they disappoint you? Or when you disappoint them?

Looking at yourself less and looking at others more comes from looking at Jesus the most.

6. As you look at the humility of Christ, what do you see? How does it impact you?

7. AW Tozer stated, "He veiled his deity, but He did not void his deity." What do you think Tozer means by this statement?

8. How does Jesus' willingness to voluntarily humble himself *"by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"* impact your life? What does it teach you about humility?

Apply

Take a moment to reflect on the humility of Christ being the antidote to division. Jesus loved us so much that he humbled himself for our sake. He went to the cross so that we could experience healing and joy.

What would it look like for you to start looking at yourself less and looking at others more?

What would looking at Christ more look like for you?