

Discussion Questions

Philippians 1:27-2:11

Sermon Outline

TRANSITION FROM VIDEO

- RFKC/DD Camp: The best counselors are those who are able to forget themselves (what they want, what they deserve), and focus in on those they are serving and what they need.
- When training we often used these kinds of leaders as examples for the others.
- It's one thing to be told what to do. It's another to have a real, live example to follow.

TRANSITION

- Paul is doing the same thing as he instructs the Philippians as to how to stand firm as gospel witnesses in the face of Roman pressure and internal division.
- Creed/Hymn as the center of the book – Christ as example of humility

PUBLIC READING

PRAYER

CONTEXT

Paul has already discussed his own situation:

- Let's go of personal vendettas and grievances for the sake of the Gospel
- His love for Jesus above all else enables him to find meaning in his toil and suffering and comfort in his death.
- Not only is he sharing, but he is intentionally trying to help them see their lives the same way.

Now he turns to focus to speak to their situation directly.

MAIN IDEA

The only way they are going to be able to stand firm in the face of opposition is by remaining unified, which can only be achieved by imitating Jesus' humility.

POINT 1: If they are going to persevere they need to be united (1:27-2:2)

TEXT BREAKDOWN

A. Four means of perseverance: (vv. 27-28)

1. One Spirit – Common power and presence that unites us
2. One mind – Common beliefs and values
3. Striving side-by-side – Mutually supporting one another
4. Without fear – With bold expectation and confidence in the Lord

B. Emphasis on Unity (v. 2)

1. Same Mind: Beliefs
2. Same Love: Love

APPLICATION: True Unity v. False Unity?

A. False Unity – Tolerance

1. Everyone is right: Issue of the mind
2. Just put up with them: Issue of the heart

B. True Unity – Inclusion without Compromise

1. Pursue the same mind (truth) with openness and faith
2. Welcome all in (love) as family

That is really hard. How are we going to pull that off?

POINT 2: If we are going to be united we need to be humble (2:3-4)

TEXT BREAKDOWN

APPLICATION: The Myth of Self-Sufficiency

A. Pride works against unity:

1. Walking in your own power vs. the Spirit

2. Makes you unteachable; can't listen or learn

3. Pride isolates

a. Refuse to walk side-by-side

B. Story about personal experience

Well then, what does humility look like?

POINT 3: If we want to find out what humility really looks like, we look to Jesus (2:5-11)

TEXT BREAKDOWN

APPLICATION: *The Essence of Humility*

A. Forget about yourself and focus on others and what they need

B. Entrust yourself to God's care

C. Motivated by love

D. It's not about sin; it's about our dependence as Creatures

How can we use the privileges, power, influence, wealth, abilities etc. that we have to serve those around us?

TWO FINAL QUESTIONS

If humility is so costly, why would we want it?

A. Salvation begins and ends with it

"And now the salvation He imparts is nothing less and nothing else than a communication of His own life and death, His own disposition and spirit, His own humility, as the ground and root of His relation to God and His redeeming work. Jesus Christ took the place and fulfilled the destiny of man, as a creature, by His life of perfect humility. His humility is our salvation. His salvation is our humility." Andrew Murray

B. Jesus is revealed in it

As we humble ourselves the servanthood of Jesus is revealed in us, and so his death—as the long process of humiliation that culminated in the laying down of his own physical life in order to fulfill the plan of God—is increasingly revealed.

How do I get there?

A. Jesus' death covers up our pride

B. Jesus' resurrection and ascension guarantees our victory

C. Jesus' Spirit empowers us to walk after him

D. Our part

It is a process of continually

- Faced with the needs of others
- The opportunity to bow our knee and confess, submitting to the Father's will

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Philippians 1:27-30

1. Paul opens with explaining what it looks like to suffer in the name of Christ and how the people of Philippi can better view it from a kingdom perspective.
 - a) Take a moment to discuss what it may look like to suffer for Christ in your day to day. Have you ever personally experienced suffering like Paul discusses?

- b) Paul encourages us to stand firm in boldness and unity because we have the same mind in Christ. What does it look like in your work place or in your daily interactions to stand firm, united with brothers and sisters in Christ, and live out the unity Paul discusses?
- c) How can we gain a better perspective on whose we are in Christ while learning to see the people we are called to serve as Christ does?

Philippians 2:1-7

- 2. To tolerate someone means “to put up with someone”, but as Christians we are called to love.
 - a) What daily practices can we consider to help us walk and count others as more significant than ourselves?
 - b) In the Greek, *morphé* is the outward expression of something that is formed on the inside. Do an internal check, what are you cognitively reflecting outwardly? What about inwardly?
 - c) Which of these do you feel you are best at? Forgetting about self and focusing on the needs of others, entrusting yourself to God's care, or being motivated by love as opposed to self-interest. Which do you need practice at?
 - d) What does it look like to acknowledge humility as self-forgetfulness and *not* a poor view of self?
 - e) In what area of your life have you seen God grow you most in regards to humility? What areas could you stand to grow?

Philippians 2:8-11

- a) How can we take our own thriving and learn to use it to benefit others?

b) The honor is due to the degree of sacrifice. With Christ as the greatest sacrifice, how can we learn to bend our knee, submit to Christ and be an image bearer of Him?