

Philippians 2:12-18 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

Intro

- Recap of the line of thinking from last week
 - To be unified, you must be humble. To be humble, you must consider the interest of others in addition to your own interests. Christ is the perfect example of this humility.
- Reading of Philippians 2.5-11
- Table of Contents
 - Desire and Capacity
 - Play Nice Kids
 - No Small Part

Desire and Capacity (v.12-13)

- Philippians 1.27
- Working out your salvation
 - Three tenses of salvation- 1 Corinthians 15.1-2
 - Past- completed justification
 - Present- ongoing sanctification
 - Future- glorification and deliverance that is yet to come
- Issue of capacity vs issue of desire
 - To will- changing of intents, motives and desires
 - To work- the effort, the doing, the obedience

Play Nice Kids (v.14-16)

- A call to unity contrasted against the model of the Israelites in the wilderness
- Deuteronomy 31.30-32.5
- Paul's concern is calling them to live the reality of their future state in their current relationships by living out the Gospel

No Small Part (v.17-18)

- Describing the drink offering

Implications

- Luke 6.43-45
- Desire and capacity

- “Being nice and kind is literally the easiest thing we can do” - Dwayne Johnson
- Twin dangers of dealing with the world around you
 - Complete animosity towards the unsaved
 - Complete imitation of the culture

Discussion Questions

Read Phil 2:12-13

1. Verses 12-13 are often quoted but frequently misunderstood. According to Pastor Mike’s sermon, what are these verses saying? Try to restate them in your own words.

- a. What part of these verses are the most striking for you? What stands out and why?
- b. This verse walks a fine balance between self-reliance and passivity. Which end of this spectrum do you tend to end up on? Are you inclined more to just do it yourself, relying on your own intelligence and ability? Are you more passive, and tend to wait around expecting God to move and change things for you?
- c. Why do you think you tend to be this way?
- d. Think about one or two examples of situations that you are currently facing right now? How are you currently approaching it (with self-reliance, passivity, or working hard but relying on God’s strength)?
- e. How do we draw our strength from God as we do what we are called to?
- f. In light of the above, what would it look like to approach the aforementioned situation(s) in a manner where you are both diligently working hard but doing so by God’s strength?

2. Another important aspect of vv. 12-13 is the fact that God is the one who provides both the desire and capacity we need to do his will.

a. How have you seen God do this in your life already?

(1) Where have you seen Him give you strength to do what you couldn't before?

(2) Where have you seen him change your desires?

b. What did this process look like? How did He do it?

c. If God has already empowered us (those who are believers) by His Spirit, then really all we lack is the desire. What desires are you currently praying that the Lord would change?

d. If it is up to God to change our desires, how then can we position ourselves so that we might be transformed? What is our part?

3. Pastor Mike pointed out that Paul's exhortation to stop grumbling and being divisive is an allusion back to the generation that wandered in the wilderness. They complained about God's provision and plan, including the leader he appointed.

a. Where do you find yourself most tempted to be dissatisfied with God's provision? Why is that? Why isn't his provision enough for you?

b. What have you found to be the best antidote to arguing and complaining?