

SERMON: The Joy of Unity Through Humility
SERIES: Philippians: Living In Joy
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

April 22, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 2:1-11.

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Our Unity is only Possible Through Humility.
- II. Jesus- The Ultimate Example and Source of Humility.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Have you ever been in a situation where there was a lack of unity (family, job, church)? How did a lack of humility contribute to the lack of unity?
2. In Christ we can give up anything because we have everything. This was the mindset of Christ as he came to rescue us. Would you give up something in order to have better relationships/ unity? Would you give up something in order to reach more people for Christ? Can you identify anything in your life that you are holding on to that is preventing unity?
3. For each of these phrases from Philippians 2 discuss as a group specific areas of your life where you can practice the humility of Christ
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit -
In humility count others more significant than yourselves -
Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others –
4. Review Philippians 2:5-8. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate humility? Think: In what ways did he demonstrate the unity of the Trinity?
5. Paul emphasizes Christ's death on a cross (v.8). How does Christ's death for us free us to have his same humility? (Remember, Christ could give up anything because he had everything he needed through the Trinity).
6. Re-read Philippians 2:9-11. Jesus is exalted and we will be exalted with him. Have you been living a Christ exalting life? What might need to change in your life in order for you to do so?

Pray: Spend time exalting Christ in your prayers. Confess pride and disunity. Thank God for the salvation of Christ which removes pride. Ask God that the mind of Christ would replace any selfishness in your lives.