

**Sermon: Together for the Gospel.**  
**Series: Growing In Grace.**

**Scripture: Philippians 1:27-2:4.**  
**Date: January 22, 2023**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Paul tells the Philippians to live a life that is worthy of the gospel. Do you live a life that is consistent with what you believe? Can you think of any areas of your life that are not consistent with your belief in the gospel?
- b) Trials deepen our unity and dependence on each other. Can you think of a testimony from your life where a trial helped unify you to the church community?
- c) How does our internal love and unity help to enhance our external witness and outreach as a church? OR...how would our gospel message suffer if we were not unified?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) How does Paul connect the Christian life to the Trinity in 2:1? What is the Trinity pouring into our lives as evidenced in this verse? Are you experiencing these things?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) Read 2:3-7. How does the gospel of Jesus destroy our selfish ambition and conceit (empty glory)? What's the difference between unity and fellowship from self-effort and unity from the gospel of grace?

**APPLICATION**

- a) Paul tells the Philippians to STAND (1:27), STRIVE (1:27), and SUFFER (1:29) alongside each other. Do these three words characterize your small group? In what ways? If not, how can you better relate to each other in these ways?
- b) Is there selfish ambition that you have been seeking in the church, this group, at work, at home? How specifically might you count others as more significant than yourself?

**FIGHTER VERSES: Psalm 119:33-36.**

**PRAYER**

- Thank God for his love and encouragement poured into you by the Spirit.
- Confess ways that you have been selfish or conceited, resisting community.
- Thank Jesus for his mind of humility which is now yours in him.
- Ask God to help you stand, strive, and suffer with one another.