

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #5
“Serving One Another With Joy”
Philippians 1:1-11

Pig-headed, stubborn, and unyielding is a description of some of the key leaders in the church at Philippi. Not a pretty picture! The root of the problem was that some people were focused on what they wanted with a total disregard of the needs and wants of others in the church. When this happens, conflict is inevitable whether it's in a church, business, family, sports, etc. The solution to this problem is to start thinking about the interests of other people and stop thinking about yourself. Today's lesson will give us insights into how peaceful relationships can be the result of humble servanthood as demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

#1. UNITY RESULTS FROM OUR SHARED EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIST, v. 1

- A. All believers are encouraged from knowing Christ
- B. All believers are comforted from His love
- C. All believers enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit
- D. All believers enjoy the tenderness (lit. bowels) & compassion of Christ

#2. UNITY RESULTS FROM OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION, v. 2

- A. Make my joy complete – Pastor Paul's desire
- B. Be like-minded – regarding the mission, 1:27, Eph 4:3
- C. Have the same love – for each other, 1:9, John 13:35
- D. Be one in spirit and purpose, 1:27

#3. UNITY RESULTS FROM REPENTING OF SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDES, vv. 3-4

- A. Selfish ambition (*eritheia*), v. 3
- B. Vain conceit (lit. vainglory), v. 3
- C. Looking only to your own interests, v. 4

#4. UNITY RESULTS FROM ADOPTING ATTITUDES THAT FOCUS ON THE WELFARE OF OTHERS, vv. 3-4

- A. Be humble in, v. 3
- B. Consider others better than yourselves, v. 3
- C. Consider the interests of others, v. 4

#5. UNITY RESULTS FROM ADOPTING THE SERVANT MENTALITY OF THE LORD JESUS, vv. 5-8

- A. Christ's attitude should be our attitude, v. 5
- B. Christ's nature: 100% God, eternally existing, v. 5
- C. Christ's status: He is equal with God, v. 5
- D. Christ's attitude: He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (*Gr. harpogmos: take advantage, exploit, hold onto*)
- E. Christ's action: made Himself nothing (*Gr. kenoo: empty, lay aside what one possesses, give up, pour out*)
- F. Christ descent: assumed the role of a servant (lit. slave), v. 7
- G. Christ assumed humanity, vv. 7-8
- H. Christ Humbled Himself, v. 8
- I. Christ was obedient to death on a cross, v. 8

#6. UNITY RESULTS BY LETTING GOD EXALT US, vv. 9-11

- A. God exalted Christ to the highest place, v. 9
 - B. God gave Christ the name above every name, v. 9
 - C. All creation will bow the knee to Jesus, v. 10
 - D. All creation will confess Jesus Christ is Lord, v. 10
 - E. Acknowledging Jesus' Lordship brings glory to God, v. 11
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Philippians 2:1-11

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 1:27: Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

Matthew 20:25-28: Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. Should the benefits available to Christians mentioned in v. 1 be shared with one another in church? Why or why not?

#2. How can rivalry, conceit, and looking to our own interests work against achieving unity? (see Matthew 20:25-28)

#3. What is the definition of humility? Why is this virtue important for Christian living?

#4. What are some practical ways in which we can: in humility, each counting others better than himself; ⁴each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others? (refer to p. 135-136 in the book)

#5. Why is v. 5 a key verse in Paul's letter? How does v. 5 relate to 1:27-30?

#6. What are the two ways this passage (vv. 5-11) should be read? Why is this important?

#7. What did Jesus empty himself of? (v. 7)

#8. Jesus gave new meaning to humility by making it a virtue, whereas the Philippians saw it as a vice. Discuss the difficulty the Philippians would have in viewing humility as a virtue.

#9. The cross was shameful in Roman culture, but Jesus elevated the cross to a picture of the greatest act of humility, sacrificial love, and obedience ever. Discuss the difficulty the Philippians would have in altering their view of the cross as something honorable and noble.

#10. A Philippian in the upper echelon of society would not welcome fellowship with a lowly slave? But in Christ they would be challenged to consider slaves above themselves. Discuss how difficult this would be for them.

#11. What is your take on the downward trek of the Lord Jesus?

#12. Discuss the significance of God conferring on Jesus the *name* above every name.

#13. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30: a discussion of the previous sermon.

Wednesday prayer and study at 6:30. (access both by clicking the zoom link)

Fellowship Gathering at Garbolina Park: Saturday, September 26th, at 9am. This is a time to visit with the church family and keep our in person connections.

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church.

You can give online or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)

If you need spiritual counseling during these crazy times don't hesitate to contact any of the elders:

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