

## OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

GRACE-BASED COMMUNITY (PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11)

MAY 5, 2019



### SERMON OUTLINE

#### Comm-Unity:

1 Cor 6:1-11

How we treat one another matters

What we Do when Wronged reveals what we cherish

1. Power, Winning, and Reputation are cherished by the World

Gen 4:24

2. Grace is cherished in the Kingdom of God

Col 3:13

1Peter 3:9

How we Treat one another Matters because it reveals what we Value

2Peter 3:9

1John 3:16

*What do I need to do with what I have heard today?*

### MAIN POINT

Grace leads us to put others first.

### THINKING THINGS THROUGH

*Connect the sermon to the study.*

1. How hard is it for you to put someone else's needs before your own?

2. How does your relationship with the other person affect your ability to put their needs first?

**Leader:** We are born thinking highly of ourselves, but we have all seen the beauty and

## SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

power of a life lived for others. Every example we can name of someone putting another first is simply a reflection of the grace modeled by Christ on the cross. He selflessly sacrificed Himself for us all. In Philippians 2, Paul taught that this ultimate sacrifice is also the ultimate standard of putting others first. As those who have experienced the grace of Christ, we are to put others first and even be willing to take offense for the sake of the community.

### DIGGING DEEPER

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4.

**3. What four specific areas of unity did Paul desire for the Philippian believers? How would you describe what Paul meant by each phrase?**

**4. Read John 13:34-35. What additional insight does Jesus' commandment give into the purpose of unity among Christians?**

**Leader:** Paul called those in Philippi to fulfill his joy by pursuing unity with one another. Their harmony could exist only by their having the same outlook—thinking the same way. They would express that unity by having the same love as Christ had, sharing the same feelings, and by their focusing on one goal. Jesus stated that this kind of obvious, mutual love and practical unity is the distinguishing characteristic of His disciples.

**5. What does it mean to consider someone “better than yourself” (v. 3)? How easy do you find that to do in this day and age?**

**6. How does the way of living that Paul encouraged in these verses stand out from the way the world lives in relationships with one another?**

**Leader:** As a way of promoting unity in our church, we must willingly demonstrate an unselfish attitude toward others. Any concern that one believer in Philippi had was to become a concern of the whole church. Paul's affirmation in this verse represents the epitome of unselfishness, and it sets the stage for the remainder of this passage. We are to give priority to our unity as believers. We demonstrate this priority by our behavior and by the biblical principles we use as our guides.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11.

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**7. What do you think Paul meant when he said we should have the same attitude as Christ? What would this look like in your life?**

**8. Though culture often views humility as a weakness, in what ways did Jesus' humility convey and require strength?**

**Leader:** Paul pointed to Christ's love for others and His obedient service to God as examples for his Philippian friends. Christians who follow Christ's example by exhibiting self-sacrificial love toward other believers and willing obedience to God help promote unity in the church. We are to live with an attitude of humility as we relate to others. With a healthy, balanced view of ourselves, we neither think too highly or too little of ourselves. With this mindset, we can serve others effectively.

**9. How does experiencing the work of grace in our lives make us humble people?**

**10. How does this passage challenge society's definition of success?**

**Leader:** God's exaltation of Christ is because of His death of humiliation on the cross. Our Lord did nothing out of selfishness, nor was He disobedient at any time to His Father's will. He did not seek His own glory. And, even in His exalted state, all of the glory will belong to the Heavenly Father. In this passage, Paul lifted up Christ's self-sacrificial love for others and His obedient service to God as an example to the Philippians. As we recognize the grace we have been shown in Christ, we are drawn to live in humility with one another.

### **DOING LIFE TOGETHER**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**11. If we are to be the church Christ wants in our community, what types of sacrifices should we be prepared to make?**

**12. If you are going to live out humility as a habit, what needs to change?**

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### PRAYER

As you close, pray that your group would focus on Jesus this week. Pray that as you focus on Him, you would be humbled in your relationship with God and with others.

### MEMORIZE

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

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2:1-2 Four if statements in this verse form the basis of Paul's appeal. These phrases express conditions that are assumed for the sake of argument. Both Paul and his readers will be inclined to believe the truth of these conditions. Fulfill my joy, not "make Paul happy," reminded them that their steadfastness completed God's call on his life. Four actions on the Philippians' part explain what Paul meant. Two verbs translate the Greek word *phroneo* μ— thinking and focusing. Beyond mere "thinking," this addresses values. The Philippians were to value the same way (lit "the same thing") and the one goal (lit "a common objective"). Between these two, Paul included shared love and feelings (lit "the same soul").

2:3-4 These four habitual actions reveal themselves collectively through another four attributes. Rivalry or conceit recalls the problem Paul condemned (1:15,17). Humility, the antidote for wrong attitudes, results in considering others as more important. Additionally, humility considers the interests of others. Proper relationships include the contrast "not only but also." Personal responsibilities demand consideration, but the concerns of others are equally important.

2:5-11 This is one of the most difficult passages in the Bible, prompting various (Gk) *kenosis* (lit "emptying") theories attempting to describe what Jesus gave up in coming to earth. The text illustrates Christian humility. Because of its rhythmic character, it is often considered an early hymn, including two stanzas—verses 6-8 (on Christian humility) and verses 9-11 (on Jesus' ascension).