

Joy Filled Life 3 Philippians 2:1-11 “The Selfless bring Joy”

Community Group Questions

1. How do you deal with people who always want their own way?
2. Talk about a situation in which you had to set aside your own plans or desires for other people.
3. Have you ever had anyone set aside their plans or desires to benefit you?
4. What are you doing as far as service to the Lord within the church?

Much of the time in life we are looking to pursue our own satisfaction...we want to be happy, we want to be comfortable and we want to have joy. If we are honest we can all admit at time we can be selfish. Most of us can agree that selfishness can be pretty ugly.

Stephen Kendrick, in his book The Love Dare said

“Almost every sinful action ever committed can be traced back to a selfish motive. It is a trait we hate in other people but justify in ourselves.”

The next topic that Paul deals with is focusing on bringing joy to others by being selfless. Paul knew that there had been issues in the church at Philippi so he started with a plea...if you really have faith in Jesus, here is what I want you to do... *“complete my joy”*

Vrs 1-2a

Today in Philippians 2:1-11 we will learn what selfless people do to bring joy to others. **Selfless people...**

pursue unity vrs 2 Selfish people say “I want my way no matter what the cost...I do not care if I ruin relationships...I want my way” A selfless person pursues unity...what kind of unity do we need to pursue? Paul breaks it down in three ways when it comes to unity in the church.

-*Same mind*- agree on the purpose of the church...-Spread the Gospel...-Become disciples, we do this by worshipping, fellowshiping and studying the Word and -Serve the body of believers.

As a church we can get off track and have problems if we stray away from the purposes of the church. When this happens problems arise and that is why Paul says have the...

-*Same love*- when we are all focusing on showing one another love it will minimize the problems. We need to ask ourselves..."is this action or are these words communicating love?"

-*Full accord of one mind*- accord is living in harmony. *In Romans 12:18 'If possible as long as it depends on you live at peace with one another'*

Practicing these things will result in unity and when there is unity all parties experience joy.

The next trait of selfless people is...selfless people...

think of others first Vrs 3-4 I can say I think that most of you would agree that marriage and parenting have to be the best lessons on this. I would also say that this is the reason why there are so many failed marriages and bad parents because we have problems with this...its hard to do. Our natural inclination is to think of ourselves, if you do not believe me observe toddlers interacting with one another. No one has to teach them to be selfish.

As a body of believers when we think of ourselves less we are on the right path...does this mean we should be doormats? No but what it does mean is that the actions we take should be for the betterment of the entire body believers and the people around us. In other words when making decisions we need to think about how it impacts the people around us.

The world outside the church has taken notice that the most effective people actually do think of others first. Many leadership books have been written about this issue...they find that the best leaders are those that make decisions that benefit the organization and people around them more than they benefit themselves.

Jim Collins wrote a book called "Good to Great" in that book they studied 11 companies that went from good companies to great companies and rather than saying "this is why they are great companies, now lets prove it" they said lets study these companies and find out what was the common factor in all these companies" What their finding was is that all of the companies had leaders that made decisions based on what was best for the company and people around them rather than themselves...others first.

Coleman Mockler of the Gillette company was a prime example.

The concept of thinking of others first was not an invention of great leaders it was fully displayed in Jesus (GOSPEL)

In **vrs 5** Paul teaches us...the mind of Jesus is what we need to have and the good news is because we trust in Him it is already ours...how is that possible? Paul is saying because of our faith in Jesus we have within us what it takes to be selfless it is the Holy Spirit.

In these next two points Paul transitions and does not just tell us what selfless people do but he uses Jesus as an example of a true selflessness...Selfless people

set aside privileges to benefit others Vrs 6-8

This is where the passage gets a little more theological in nature...The theological truth taught here is Jesus being God came to earth in the form of a human.

Vrs 6 “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped” Warren Weirsbe states “Jesus did not consider His equality with the Father something to be selfishly held onto [or grasped]”

When he came to this earth He willingly set aside the use of His power in some situations...think about this...In Matthew 4 we see the account of the Temptation of Jesus...Jesus was tempted by Satan to selfishly use His power to meet His own need...turn stone to bread. He was tempted to test the Father by throwing Himself off the pinnacle of the temple. He was tempted to take His seat of authority before the Father's Will was fulfilled.

When He came to this earth He “let go” of those things for a time so that the greater purpose of our salvation could happen. He set aside privileges for our benefit.

Vrs 7 Jesus let go and “emptied Himself” the theological term here is kenosis the self emptying of Jesus...what does this mean? Charles Ryrie defines it this way “Christ emptied Himself of retaining and exploiting His status in the Godhead and took on humanity in order to die”

This was Jesus’ choice...John 10:18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Vrs 8 “humbled Himself” The ultimate act of humility before the Father and obedience to the Father was laying down His life. The greatest sacrifice that anyone could make is laying down their life for another person...Jesus did that for us...

Jesus said in *Matt 20:28* that *“He came to serve and not be served”*

How do we live like that?

The call of the Christian life in Jesus words are *Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*

Sometimes in life we are called to give up our privileges in order to serve others. This is very important to understand especially when it comes to serving in the church. Anytime we serve we are setting aside our own life and giving our own time for the benefit of Jesus and others. This is why people that serve for the right motives experience joy and people that serve for the wrong motives end up miserable.

The final thing we learn about selfless people is they...

bring glory to God vrs 9-11

Interestingly enough when we are selfless not only do we bring Joy to others and God we actually experience joy because God blesses...look at the outcome for Jesus.

After all his time on earth serving us He will be restored to his rightful place of authority. Notice what this verse is saying...that eventually everyone will bow down and admit Jesus is the Savior. How does this work...will everyone eventually be saved? No but everyone in the afterlife will know that Jesus is really the Savior and that will complete the plan that brings the Godhead glory.

What about us? Every time you are preform a selfless act you are actually communicating this life is not about me it is about Jesus.