

Philippians 2:1-11 Life Group Notes

- What brings you joy? Why do you think unity in the church is what will make 'Paul's joy complete'? Why is unity in the church so important?
- Paul sums up some BIG Gospel truths in a sentence (vs. 1). What are they and why does Paul start with them when building his argument toward unity?
- Paul urges the Philippians to 'make my joy complete'. Is this manipulative language or emotional blackmail? Cf. 4:11-12. How can we spot when someone is using unhealthy emotional manipulation in a relationship?
- **Do nothing** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. We can all be good at giving ourselves reasons or excuses to sin thinking that there might be 'something' rather than 'nothing'. What are some of the excuses people use?
- Is it wrong to be ambitious? How can we tell whether our ambition might be drifting towards selfish?
- How did Ben define selfish ambition? (Hint, if no-one can remember the idea behind the Greek word here is to be seen by other people to be better than others.) What are the roots of 'selfish ambition'?
- Ben said that the seeds of division are sown in comparison. Do you agree? Have you ever found yourself in a cul-de-sac of comparison? How do you get out? Spurgeon says: ***"There is some point in which your friend excels you. Notice that rather than the point in which you excel them"***.
- 'Vain conceit' is an empty pride. When we build our identity on what others think of us, it is an empty and baseless foundation. What is the better foundation to build our identity on? How do we keep reminding ourselves of this?
- Jesus gave up everything as we read in verses 5-8. Ben said in becoming a servant/slave Jesus had a borrowed bed, a borrowed boat, a borrowed donkey and a borrowed tomb. How does this speak into our consumerist culture? Is it wrong to have or want stuff/things?
- Jesus chose not to 'grasp' at equality with God, or to keep hold of it. What things in life are we tempted to grasp at that or for that draw us away from God?
- How can be aware/grateful for what we do have help combat this? How do we become more aware/grateful?
- How does the credal confession 'Jesus Christ is Lord' (vs. 11) help re-focus us?