

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee
9/28/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*

Week Three: The Joy of Imitation-vv. 2:1-11

Introduction:

Setting

Time

Themes-When we share Christ's mindset, God will lift us up as one.

Key Words and Phrases: joy, in Christ, koinonia, like-minded, and Gospel

Section One: By what means can we achieve unity as a body?-vv. 1-4

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Content Questions:

- List the 4 "if... any's" in verse 1.
- What is the command in verse 2? What are the descriptors in that verse of what it will look like to have the same mind?
- What are the commands in verse 3? Explain the contrast.
- What are the commands in verse 4? Explain the contrast.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you share the "if... any's" with Paul?
- What does it mean to have the same mind among believers?
- What might you need to lay aside in order to complete God's joy for His people?

Section Two: What is Christ's mindset?-vv. 5-8

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Content Questions:

- What is the command in verse 5? Do we have it already?
- Explain how Christ responded to His greatness in verse 6.
- Explain the contrast in verse 7. What is the evidence given in verses 7 and 8 of Jesus responding to His greatness in contrast to verse 6?

Discussion Questions:

- Do you have the mind that Paul describes here?
- If the mindset that Paul describes here characterized the church, what would we look like?
- What does it mean to humble yourself? How can you grow in this in your interpersonal interactions in the Church?

Section Three: What was the reward for Christ's mindset?-vv. 9-11

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Content Questions:

- What did God give Jesus in verse 9 because of His mindset in the previous section?
- What will be the result of God's exaltation of Jesus according to verses 10 and 11?

Discussion Questions:

- Who is exalted?
- To whom will all the nations bow?
- Why will they bow before Him?
- The call here is to imitate the humility of Jesus. How can you grow in this?

Section Four: How should we conduct ourselves in light of sharing Christ's mindset?-vv. 12-18

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning,

15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Content Questions:

- What is the importance of the therefore? What is Paul's assumption in verse 12? What is the command?
- In verse 13, what is the reason for the command from verse 12?
- What does the obedience to this command look like from a practical standpoint in verse 14? What is the result in verses 15 and 16?
- How does this have an effect on Paul in verses 17 and 18?

Discussion Questions:

- What would this attitude look like in the Church?
- How are you doing on working out your salvation with fear and trembling?