

Philippians 2:1-11

Read Philippians 2:1-11

Paul is writing to a church that has division in it, in-fighting, a lack of coming together toward gospel ends (see 4:2-3). Paul invites them into a new way of relating one another in light of the good news of God in Jesus.

1. (1-2) Paul begins by reminding them of the glorious truths of the gospel that should shape how they interact, that should lead them to having the same mind, the same love, and be in full agreement. What is the
 - i) Encouragement we have in Christ?
 - ii) Comfort we have in his love?
 - iii) Participation we have in the Spirit that leads to affection and sympathy between followers of Jesus?

And...How will resting in these truths impact how followers of Jesus interact with one another?

2. Paul invites his readers to do nothing in relationship with one another out of selfish ambition or conceit. The word translated conceit, is a Greek word that means empty-glory, it implies that we have a cosmic insecurity and long for glory, long to know we matter, that we are valued, significant, important and will often move out into relationship to fill that void. How does selfish ambition and empty-glory corrode relationship?

3. Paul invites his readers to a new pattern of relating in vs. 3. To consider the other more significant than ourselves and move to meet their needs. What would this look like practically?

4. (4) Looking to the needs of others does not mean neglecting our own. What do you think is the proper balance between attending to our own needs, and serving another's needs?

5. (5-11) In order to live into this new pattern of relating we need the mind of Christ. What did Jesus' "mindset" lead him to do? And for what purpose? (See Isaiah 53:5-6 for a background on what the servant of God accomplishes)

6. How does seeing what God has done for us in Jesus shape our attitudes toward others that will lead to healthier relationships?

7. (5) Paul says the mind of Christ' is already ours. What does this mean?