

Philippians: Week 5 Study Questions

Philippians 2:1-11

Led by Jesus' example, we are called to empty ourselves out for other people and for God's glory. We are to make the intentional choice to think of others as better than ourselves even when we feel right or entitled.

Application

1. In Philippians 2:2, Paul gives us three commands related to how we interact with others: to agree wholeheartedly with one another, to love one another, and to have one mind and purpose ("same soul"). Which one of these is hardest for you? What challenges or difficulties do you feel when trying to live these out? How can you follow these commands more effectively?
2. Paul reminds the church to not be selfish or try to impress others. In what circumstances are you most likely to be selfish? Where do you most often find yourself trying to impress others? Why is it hard for you to think of others as better than you in these situations?
3. We want to hang on to what we feel entitled to, but Jesus did the opposite; He emptied Himself of everything He was rightfully entitled to. What do you feel entitled to? What does it look like for you to empty yourself of that?
4. When you are wronged, how hard is it for you to let it go? When you are right and not recognized for it, are you able to let that go? Bill mentioned, "the path to glory leads through willing humiliation." Where are you willingly being humbled? With this in mind, what can you do this week to bring glory to God?
5. 1 Peter 5:6-7 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." When you struggle with anxiety, you are trying to hold on to something. In that moment you are not trusting God with the outcome. What are you holding on to that causes you anxiety? What do you know is true about God that can allow you to let go?

Key Points

- Instead of walking into a room and thinking about how other people are noticing us, we should be thinking about how we can serve them. In dealing with other believers, we have to choose to see them through an eternal lense.
- We are people who want to chase empty glory—glory of ourselves, of other people, and of worldly pleasures. But Jesus had real glory, and He emptied it out for us.
- When we are right, we want to tell everyone and be affirmed in that, but Jesus, who had equality with God, still did not cling to that. He still chose to pour Himself out as a sacrifice for us.
- The load, weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. —CS Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*
- Don't view how God feels about you through a small, temporal circumstance.