

Disciples Church

Joy in Humility <> Philippians 2:1-11

Week of June 7, 2017

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. In Philippians 2:2, the Apostle Paul says, “Complete my joy…” Our joy is ultimately founded and rooted in Christ Jesus, but Paul is also saying that his joy is affirmed and increased when the bride of Christ is acting like the bride of Christ. He shows us that we can and should have joy when there is holiness in the blood-bought family.
* When you see other believers flourishing in sanctification, do you have joy or indifference (or even envy/bitterness)?
* Do you see that our own personal obedience (or disobedience) to God’s law has real effects on other believers around us? Do you think its loving to others to be obedient to Christ so we cause joy in others and not sorrow or burden? How does this motivate you in repentance and to good works?
1. In Philippians 2:2, the Apostle Paul says to be “of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” The pastors, teachers, and other leaders of Disciples Church have worked diligently these last several years to bring unified teaching on God’s truths to cultivate this “of one mind” unity.
* How has this affected you personally in your understanding of God’s word and unity with your brothers and sisters here?
* Do you see the importance for the detailed and careful theological study and teaching we do? How can you personally be an encourager for the local church being “of the same mind?”
1. We said that *Christian unity is fully founded on the truths of God, and it describes people who are living for the glory of God and the good of one another*. Here again we emphasize agreement with Scripture--that true unity is unity in God’s truths. Now consider the rest of the statement:
* What does it mean to live for God’s glory? Why does true unity require that?
* What does it mean to also live for the good of one another? Why does true unity require that?
1. Pride is a unity killer. Pride has been said to give birth to all other sins. Pride works itself out in selfish ambition and conceit. Read the passages about these things in your Handout Notes if needed (page #4). How has God been growing you away from pride?
2. One aspect of fallen man is being offended easily. This tendency ruins families, friendships, and churches. Being offended easily happens when our pride feels threatened. How does what God’s word says in Philippians 2:3 and Romans 12:10 motivate you to be growing here and not to be as self-focused and easily offended?
3. From Adam and Eve, to Pharaoh, to Jonah, to the Pharisees, to the believers in Corinth in the early church, to you and I, the tendency to be “wise in our own eyes” (Proverbs 26:12 and Isaiah 5:21) is a serious sin that causes all kinds of unbiblical division and other sin.
* How has God been growing you away from being “wise in your own eyes?”
* Do you have remaining sin in this that needs to identified and repented of? Often times we can’t see clearly our own sin here; it takes asking other more mature Christians/leaders how we are struggling in this and yielding to their insight.
1. Christ is the model for us to follow in matters of humility. Discuss how this works practically in our lives. How does Christ being our model help us have Christ-like humility?
2. How are you doing in self-sacrificing, humble service of others, especially those at Disciples Church? God has given your life in the here and now for you to give it away, to give yourself to love and serve others joyfully. You should be tired at the end of every day because you are diligent in good works towards others. What new ways can you serve your spouse, children, and church family? Are you serving at church regularly and in more than one way?
3. What other new takeaways do you have from tonight’s lesson regarding Christ-like humility?
4. In Philippians 2:6-11, God inspired Paul to write about glorious gospel realties--to teach of Jesus and His work to redeem unable and unworthy people. Read this passage again together. What points in these verses are sinking in deeper for you tonight?
5. In your Handout Notes, look at the “**Non-gospel foundation and motivation** and **Gospel foundation and motivation.**” We’ve taught this at Disciples Church for many years now; how has this truth affected your understanding of becoming right with God and doing true good works?