

Good News Church GA
Midweek Connect
2-10-26

Sermon Series:
“Joy in the Journey”
Paul’s letter to the Philippians

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 2:1-11

The Humiliation of Joy

¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Book Notes (Ch. 5 – The Great Example)

KEY VERSES: “*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*”

– Philippians 2:5-8

People can rob us of our joy. When Epaphroditus brought a generous gift and good news from the church in Philippi, he also brought bad news of a possible division in the church family. There was a double threat to the unity of the church: false teachers coming in from

without (Phil. 3:1-3) and disagreeing members from within (Phil. 4:1-3). This is one reason that Paul opened this section appealing to unity and love, not division and rivalry.

There is a difference between unity and uniformity. True spiritual unity comes from within; it is a matter of the heart. Uniformity is the result of pressure from without.

Paul wanted them to see that the basic cause of this disunity was selfishness, and the cause for selfishness is pride. There can be no joy in the life of the Christian who puts himself above others.

The secret of joy in spite of circumstances is *the single mind*. The secret of joy in spite of people is *the submissive mind*.

KEY VERSE: *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”* – Philippians 2:3

Humility (def): *“Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.”* – C.S. Lewis

4 Examples of the Submissive Mind

1. Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:1-11)
2. Paul (Phil. 2:12-18)
3. Timothy (Phil. 2:25-30)
4. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25-30)

4 Characteristics of the Submissive Mind

1. He Thinks of Others, Not Himself (vs. 5-6)
2. He Serves (vs. 7)
3. He Sacrifices (vs. 8)
4. He Glorifies God (vs. 9-11)

The test of the submissive mind is not just how much we are willing to take in terms of suffering, but how much we are willing to give in terms of sacrifice.

It is one of the paradoxes of the Christian life that the more we give, the more we receive; the more we sacrifice, the more God blesses. This is why the submissive mind leads to joy; it makes us more like Christ.

The person with the submissive mind, as he lives for others, must expect sacrifice and service, but in the end, it is going to lead to glory. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6).

- Joseph suffered and served for 13 years, before God exalted him.
 - David experienced many years of hardship before God exalted him.
 - Jesus served, sacrificed, suffered, and died, but then God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above all names
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Discussion Questions

1. What verse from the text (Philippians 2:1-11) jumps out at you the most? Why?
2. What jumps out at you from the reading in Wiersbe's book?
3. What is the difference between unity and uniformity?
4. What is true humility? How do you become more humble?
5. Why does selfishness never bring joy?
6. Why is pride the great enemy of the spiritual life?
7. What was the whole purpose of Christ's humiliation and exaltation?
8. What is the "why" (i.e., motivation) behind the "what" (i.e., action) in the teaching of this text to be humble, value others ahead of yourself, serve, sacrifice, deflect glory, etc.)?
9. What challenges / encourages the most in this text and teaching?
10. What's your primary take away?