
CHURCH IN COMMON

COMMON HUMILITY—PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

What?

Open in prayer. Pray that Christ's joy may be made complete in your time together tonight.

Icebreaker: Tell a story from your life (or from a book/movie, or from someone else's life) in which someone sacrificed their own self-interest for someone else's.

Read Philippians 2:1-4. Have someone read it a second time. This is one of the more popular passages in the Bible. But what was something new that stuck out as you read it this time?

This section of Philippians speaks to the beautiful but difficult goal of church unity. But this is not mere unity for the sake of unity. What kinds of things does Paul tell us to be united around? Why is that beautiful? And why is that difficult?

What does it mean to be motivated by "selfish ambition" and "vain conceit" (v3)? How does that run opposite to what it means to be the church? What might be the opposites of selfish ambition and vain conceit?

So what?

How can the church work through tensions of disunity? How have you seen this done in the past? And how could the principles in this passage help us?

How would the church change if she prioritized the principles and goals of this text?

How would you change if you prioritized the principles and goals of this text?

Now what?

Being "in Christ" and "sharing in the Spirit" (v1) are key to a life of humility and unity. How can we make sure that our church functions with a sense that we are in the presence of Christ and the Spirit?

What are some practical ways to regard others as more important than yourself?

Pray for unity among believers, centered on the love of Christ. Pray especially about specific cases of disunity which you know about. Ask the Lord what you could do to help bring reconciliation.