

Developing an Others Orientation

Philippians 2:1-11
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Bad news: “It’s not about you.” The Purpose Driven Life

-But the world says “it’s all about you”

-The question of Identity has taken over our world today...who am I?

Song: “What Was I Made for?” Billie Eilish (Barbie)

purpose - the reason for which a person or thing exists or was created

1. Purpose does not come from looking within, or fulfilling some desire of the heart not rooted in God...

-follow your heart/dreams, you do you, you can be whoever you want to be...

2. When we look outside of ourselves, that is a step in the right direction

-people today aligning themselves with a movement or a cause (nothing wrong with this unless this is your sole purpose)

3. True purpose must ultimately be found in the transcendent (beyond space and time)

-confirmed in Scripture

II Cor. 4:18 - transient v. eternal

as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Good news: The Gospel

II Corinthians 5:15 - “And [Christ] died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them”

Main Point:

The only remedy to no longer live for ourselves is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*High school retreat in Kentucky 2018?

The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness book

-also studied Phil 2:1-11 extensively

Philippians review: Paul writing from prison

joy, rejoice - 13 times in the book of Philippians

v. 27 - only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ...

standing firm in one spirit, one mind, striving side by side (bridge to ch. 2)

*Opening Prayer

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my *joy* by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

v. 1 - So if there is any...

1. encouragement in Christ
2. comfort from love
3. participation in the Spirit (fellowship - koinonia) unique to followers of Jesus
4. affection and sympathy

Their common sharing in the Spirit ought to be a decisive factor in their corporate life as 'one body in Christ'

Martin, R. P. (1987). *Philippians: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 11, p. 99). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

v. 2

complete my joy - what Paul is longing to see

UNITY

By being of the...

1. same mind
2. same love
3. full accord
4. one mind

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

*see also Colossians 3:12-17

Q. What can I/we do to bring more unity to the body of Christ?

-when we make secondary issues ultimate, we often (un)knowingly create disunity and break fellowship with our brothers or sisters in Christ

*Galatians 5:19 informs us that this is a big deal

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, *rivalries, dissensions, divisions...*

-the only way to truly be unified is by humbling ourselves...

v. 3 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in *humility* count others more significant than yourselves.

Really, nothing?

Q. How is it possible to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit?

*Ethnocentrism - kids, many adults today

1 Peter 5:5-7

...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

-Not until the teaching of Jesus was humility actually seen as a virtue

Q. what is humility?

humility - a modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, its thinking of yourself less.

-CS Lewis

-it doesn't mean putting yourself down or hating yourself
-it doesn't mean not taking care of yourself

-there is a reason we are told to put on our own oxygen masks first before assisting others on a plane

-The sacrificial love we have for our own family should be extended to our brothers and sisters in Christ

-countercultural - think of yourself less

v. 4 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

look outside yourself, your situation, your routine, your goals, your dreams and desires

Joy ultimately comes from looking outside ourselves.

*So many examples:

Kim Contreras podcast - trafficked women, trauma counseling

Cousins Jimmy and Malia - taking in the destitute and downtrodden (do you have room?)

Doc - adopting the newborn baby of his niece at the age of 50

“That’s just what Christians do” (disciples of Jesus)

Disciple - a believer who lovingly follows Jesus and intentionally helps other follow Him

Q. How do you know if you are a disciple?

1. Do you abide? – (John 15:5) - I am the vine, you are the branches...abide in Me...for apart from Me you can do *nothing*.

2. Do you love one another? (John 13:35) – By this *all* men will know that you are my disciples, if you *love* one another.

3. Do you bear fruit? (John 15:8) – By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.

-happier, more joyful, more blessed when you live this way

Q. So, how do I know if I'm being selfish or not? What can I do to combat selfishness?

-look outside of yourself

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

vv. 1-4 - we have unity/oneness, humility, looking out for the interests of others

Q. So, how do we do this?

v. 5 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- looking to the interests of other as Christ did
- the passage now shows us Jesus' example

Main Point:

The only remedy to no longer live for ourselves is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

vv. 6-11 - a poem or hymn

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

“form of God” is very nature of God

“equality with God a thing to be grasped”

- held onto at all costs
- to be used for His own advantage

Jesus is 100% God AND 100% man.

v. 7 - but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

-this is the incarnation

Q. What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself? What is kenosis theory?

Commentary:

“Notice that v. 7 does not specify *what* the Son of God “emptied” Himself of. And here we must be careful not to go beyond what Scripture says. Jesus did not empty Himself of His divine attributes—no such attributes are mentioned in the verse, and it is obvious in the gospels that Jesus possessed the power and wisdom of God...It is better to think of Christ’s “emptying” of Himself as a laying aside of the *privileges* that were His in heaven.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich

Q. How did He do this? by taking the form of a servant

Doulos - Greek for servant, bondservant, or slave

- Jesus, the ultimate example of humility
- Served and washed feet

John 13:14

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 1:27, 30 - John the Baptist

even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie... This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

He>I (*show pic)

v. 8 - And being found in human form, he *humbled* himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

*see also Isaiah 53

-sacrifice (true love)

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the *joy* that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Q. What kind of faith do you have?

1. **Religious faith** (religion - set of beliefs that give meaning to reality) - using God as a means to an end like the Pharisees (see parable of the sower, Matthew 13, Mark 4)
2. **Compartmentalized faith** (depending on location, people, circumstances) immature - milk, not solid food I Cor. 3 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh.
3. **Maturing faith** - from milk to solid food, ever-growing/increasing
4. **Surrendered faith** (Job, Paul, Jesus)

v. 9 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Matthew 23:12

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (see also I Corinthians 15:28, Ephesians 1:10, 20-23)

*In a Roman graveyard in Frankfurt, Germany underneath the chin bone of a skull dated between AD 230–270, archaeologists discovered a small, silver amulet containing a silver scroll less than 3.5 centimeters in size. The foil had Latin writing on it. This grave is significant because it's dated to an early era of church history from which we have precious little material evidence. The amulet is now the earliest material artifact of Christian origins discovered north of the Alps (spreading farther and faster than what historians once thought).

It refers to a few different things including Saint Titus, but the two things of greatest significance are:

1. Holy, holy, holy! In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God!
2. ...May this means of salvation protect the man who surrenders himself to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, since before Jesus Christ every knee bows: those in heaven, those on earth and those under the earth, and every tongue confesses (Jesus Christ).

The amulet shows that Christianity was vibrant even before it was officially and legally recognized by the Roman Empire in AD 313 and before the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.

-at a time when some Christians began praying to saints or falling into syncretism
-this discovery is pointing to the deity and exclusivity of Jesus Christ from Phil 2:10-11

vv. 10-11 - so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 45:23

By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' (see also Revelation 20)

-passages that reconfirm the deity of Jesus Christ (see John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3)

*The message of the Gospel is inclusive and exclusive at the same time

John 3:16 (inclusive)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:13

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

John 14:6 (exclusive)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 5:20

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Main Point:

The only remedy to no longer live for ourselves is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Romans 10:9 - Gospel

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Q. What was I made for? What's my purpose?

*I was made to glorify God by loving Him and loving others...

Application:

1. We must have the right *perspective*

- See ourselves correctly - we are not good and cannot be good apart from Christ (Romans 3:10)
- See Jesus correctly - God incarnate, must love Him with everything (Matthew 22:37)
- See others correctly - all made in the image of God, must love others as ourselves (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 22:39)

2. We must act accordingly

- Put it into practice (James 1:22)

How? By doing what?

Living on mission by glorifying God and making disciples of Jesus among our neighbors and the nations

*Jessica Trowbridge - Safe Families interview

Closing Prayer