

The Joy in Self-Sacrifice

Read Philippians 2:1-11, then briefly consider the questions below.

This week in Children's Worship, the kids are learning that God is happy because He delights in Himself. At first glance, this may seem to mean that God is somehow selfish, but as we take a closer look we can see that this delight is made possible because of the *self-giving nature* within the Trinity. As the Father delights in the Son, the Son glorifies the Father, and the Holy Spirit reveals the glory of the Father, there is true mutual joy (Mark 14:36, John 14:26). When we observe this relationship, we can see that true satisfaction and joy is found through denying ourselves and seeking to meet the needs of the other.

God delights in Himself through giving of Himself. Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 5:1, and 1 John 2:6.

- What is the connecting theme from these verses?

- Time and time again Scripture tells us to imitate God. If the Trinity exhibits a continual self-giving nature, what does that mean for us? How are we to treat one another?

As the new mom of a one month old, I have never had a better opportunity to practice denying myself for the needs of another. It is not always easy to continually give of myself. However, I have also experienced the most intense joy and delight through my attempts to deny myself.

- Think of a time in your life where you had the opportunity to deny yourself for the needs of another. How did it make you feel?

- How might we find ultimate delight and satisfaction through serving others?

- As you face this upcoming week, what opportunities will you have to give of yourself for someone else?

Let's pray:

Father, Your Word teaches us that You delight in Yourself because of your self-giving nature. As we seek to imitate You, please help us to be willing to sacrifice our desires for the needs of others.

Please give us the strength we need to practice this selflessness daily.

In Your Name we pray,

Amen.