

Making A Difference

Philippians 2:1-4



"Fulfill my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, sharing the same feelings, focusing on one goal." Phil. 2:2

Main Point: We have been challenged to impact our community by serving where we live and how we live.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What is the dirtiest job you have ever done? Are you willing to do it again? Why or why not?

Describe a time when someone served you in a profound way, doing something for you that you absolutely did not want to do. How did that make you feel?

Paul was concerned about the effectiveness of the church in Philippi because they were lacking in some key areas. As a church, we must be focused on those same things as we get our hands dirty doing the work of the Lord. If we are to make an impact in our community we must do it through the way we live. When we come together in humility and kindness we can reach a city for Christ.

A church seeking to make a difference in the community must:

1) **BE UNIFIED** (v. 1-2).

What four specific areas of unity did Paul desire for the Philippian believers? How would you describe what Paul meant by each phrase?

How are each of these areas represented in our church and in our relationships?

Read John 13:34-35. What additional insight does Jesus' commandment give into the purpose of unity among Christians?

2) **BE HUMBLE.** (v. 3)

Why is humility an essential element to this kind of unity?

What does it mean to consider someone “more significant than” yourself? Where can we find the kind of motivation we need to truly consider others better than ourselves?

How did Jesus demonstrate this kind of thinking? How might considering the gospel, again and again, lead to true humility?

3) **BE KIND.** (v. 4)

How does a kind person treat others? What other virtues is a kind person likely to have?

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, once said, “I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.” How does Penn’s quote help us define kindness? How can we apply this to our church’s opportunity to show kindness in the community?

Read Romans 2:4. How has God shown His kindness to us? What is the appropriate response to God’s kindness?

Apply It:

What are the primary obstacles to living out this passage?

If we are to be the church Christ wants in our community, what types of sacrifices should we be prepared to make?

Pray:

Pray that God would move in the upcoming outreach events our church is hosting (Balloons and Tunes, Lake Scare-O-Lina). Ask that the Holy Spirit would be present as we unite together under the banner of Christ to serve the community. Pray our spirit would be one of humility and kindness as we serve those around us, and that God would give us opportunity to minister to others.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Balloons and Tunes: Friday September 22nd 6-8pm at Doko Meadows. Sign up to volunteer in the worship lobby!

Discovery Class: October 22nd

Lake Scare-O-Lina: October 22nd