**Have the Same Mindset as Christ Jesus**

**The Word**

Read together Philippians 2:1-11

**The Big Idea**

Paul calls the church to a radical humility that promotes church unity. Our experience of the radical love and grace of Jesus is the motivation and fuel that enables us to live similar lives of humble service towards one another.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. In v. 3-4, Paul calls us out of a posture of empty glory in which we seek recognition from others and pursue our own interests at the expense of others’ interests. How and where do you see this posture still playing out in your life these days?

2. Consider the perspectives on humility offered on Sunday (see point III in the outline below for a reminder). What was the most helpful idea about humility for you?

3. At this time in your life, is there a specific context where you feel most called to pursue a life of humble and sacrificial service to others? Be as specific as possible.

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Paul’s main concern in this passage is for unity

A. The main commands are in v. 2

B. There was at least some level of disunity in the Philippian church (see 4:2-3)

II. The posture that does not promote unity: selfish ambition and vain conceit (v. 3)

A. “Empty glory”: our search for recognition, greatness, acknowledgment that is vain

1. Consider the “like” button on Facebook.

2. It’s a helpful metaphor for life: interacting and acting in ways to gain recognition, attention, approval, etc.

B. Considering our own interests ahead of others (v. 4)

While some of us don’t necessarily crave recognition, we may tend to focus exclusively on our own needs at the expense of others

C. These postures don’t promote unity

Instead they promote competition, posturing, insecurity, jealousy, resentment

III. The posture that promotes unity: humility (v. 3)

A. Humility = a sober estimation of ourselves simply grounded in the reality of who God is and who we are in light of who he is

B. “Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less”

C. Humility is actually freedom: freedom from our constant need for recognition, freedom from the need to always be proving ourselves, freedom to genuinely accept ourselves in all our limitations

D. Quotes on humility and focusing on others

1. “There can be no happiness in the heart where self is enthroned. If you would have peace, you must seize, bind, and never again let loose, for self is the cruelest tyrant, the deepest shadow, and the blackest blot that darkens life. To be rid of the despot, you must begin by placing others first in all your thoughts and actions.”

2. “Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.” –C.S. Lewis

IV. The motivation for living a life of humble service

A. The gratitude and humility that comes from having received all the benefits of the gospel (v. 1). Our common experience of God’s grace and goodness is the fuel for living lives of humble love towards one another

B. The example of Jesus (v. 5-11)

1. He had all the glory of heaven (recognition, privilege, etc.) and he emptied himself of those privileges to become an ordinary human child

2. As a man he humbled himself to the point of a shameful death on a cross

3. He lived a life of radical humility and pursuit of our interests ahead of his own

4. His life is the pattern and motivation for our lives

5. God confirms and vindicates this way of selfless love by raising Jesus from the dead and exalting him to the highest place in the universe (v. 9-11)

V. Where do you need to be reminded of this way of life today?

Church community, marriage, parenting, etc.