



WEEK 3

May 6 - 7

Philippians – Joy in Christ

This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the guide in your small group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your small group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.

MAIN TEXT: Philippians 2:1-18

SUMMARY: The guiding principles of life are found in Philippians. It is often called the book of Joy. Today, we will examine how Joy is connected to humility.

GETTING STARTED

Joy is found in forgetting about yourself because you are in Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Joy is found “in Christ” (vv. 1-4)
 - a) Possibly the most important words in the Bible, what does “in Christ” mean to you? You can be “in your car” or “in your house”, but how can you be “in Christ”?
 - b) What are the benefits of being “in Christ”? What does God see when He looks at you? What blessings and provisions are yours “in Christ”?
 - a. What is the downside of being “in Christ”? What happens to “you”?
 - c) How does this make you humble?
 - a. Do you see this as freeing or binding?
 - b. What are you “free” to do since you don’t have to worry about yourself?
 - c. Knowing yourself as you do, is this the greatest gift ever?
2. Joy is found in the mind of Christ (vv.5-11)
 - a) Jesus, Who was God in the flesh, did not make much of Himself but humbled Himself, even to the point of death on the cross. Where was His focus?
 - b) What does it take to keep your mind focused on God’s plan and not your own? How can you get the “mind of Christ”? Read v. 5. It is already yours! Use it!
 - c) What is your life about? You? Are you finding Joy in that? Paul points us to the cross and to Christ. Always seek the cross. There you will find your example - Jesus.

“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:2

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

A little game of “dress-up” can help explain “in Christ” to our children. Get out those old costumes and play dress up. Let them put on Mommy’s dress and shoes and Daddy’s shirt and tie. Now they are “in” Mommy or Daddy’s identity. You can even use Disney movies to explain the principle. Jasmine dressed as a pauper in the market place, but she was still a princess. Aladdin was dressed as a prince, but was still a “street rat”. But with Jesus, when we are “in Christ”, we are NOT what we were and never will be again. We are new creations – in Christ.

3. Joy is found in Christ’s work in your life. (vv. 12-18).
 - a) Why “fear and trembling”? Read v. 13. If you humble yourself and “put on Christ”, Who is working in you?!?
 - a. Think about Who God is? The Almighty, the Creator of the Universe, the Alpha and Omega, the King of kings and Lord of lords! And it is He Who is working in you! A little “fear and trembling” is needed, right?
 - b) Working out your salvation. What is the difference between “working out” your salvation and “working for” your salvation?
 - c) Do you have to work for your salvation?
 - a. We are told that our computers, smart phones, and other devices are only as smart as the person working them. But they are ours.
 - b. How long did you have to work out the kinks in that new computer program at work?
 - c. Months later, are you still finding out things you didn’t know you could do on your new phone?
 - d) Does it bring you Joy to know that God is working in your life?

NEXT STEPS

- Think about it: Would you want to stand before God as you? Or would you like a new identity “in Christ”?
- You have the mind of Christ. Use it.
- Your salvation is a gift from God. Check the manual and find out what He’s given you!
- Be aware that God is working in you! Right now! Every minute, every hour, every day. Enjoy the JOY!

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