

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

In Control, The Wonderful Cross, Still, Waymaker, Since Jesus Came Into My Life

WELCOME

How are you and your family responding to the many “crisis” situations around us today?

WORD

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11

³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There were so many challenges to being joyful this past week: WHO announced a COVID19 worldwide pandemic, an increasing number of cases in the country resulted in even our church services to go online. Worldwide, we see people feeling anxious and fearful. Yet there is a bigger problem that affects us all, it is an invisible, inner problem just like a virus, that plagues all of us: PRIDE.

CS LEWIS said this about pride: **“Pride . . . the one vice of which no man in the world is free, and of which hardly any people . . . ever imagine they are guilty themselves”**. Isn’t it true? Pride can be hidden so deep within our hearts. However, we see its reality manifest in various ways. Why do people lie? Why do people get so angry? Why do people slander? Why do people get envious of others? If you trace all these to their source, you will discover that pride is at the root of it.

John Stott said that **“pride is our greatest enemy, and humility our greatest friend”**. In **Proverbs 16:18** we are reminded that **“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”** The antivirus for the COVID19 is still being developed, and until such a time when it is made available to us, we are bound to experience the ill-effects of this virus. The antidote to PRIDE is to **LIVE A CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE: BE HUMBLE LIKE CHRIST**, and until we apply this to our lives, we are bound to continue feeling the ill-effects of pride in our lives!

Philippians chapter 2 deals mostly on a specific relational conflict that Paul addresses. In **Philippians 4:2-3**, Paul mentions who these people are: Euodia and Syntyche and the church in Philippi is encouraged to help these women restore their relationship. Paul opens this chapter with “IF” statements, first-class conditional clauses that give him a jump-off point for his advice and command for the believers in Philippi. He is

basically summarizing our lessons in this series: **real joy comes from the Lord**, and Paul is at the best position to say this because his situation wasn’t really so comfortable (Paul was in prison in his old age).

Now when Paul said, **“make my joy complete”**, he was not saying that his joy was lacking – he was saying that they can make his joy **“even fuller”** by their **ONENESS in CHRIST**. He is not after uniformity or conformity, but he wants them to have the **same love**, and be **controlled by the same Spirit**.

The solution he gave was simple on how to “make joy complete”, but it is filled with so much theological truths that all believers must be able to live by and exhibit in their lives. **Verses 3-4** remind us to **“do nothing out of selfishness or empty conceit”**, and instead **“with humility of mind”** – a mindset of humility that stands at the opposite of thinking highly of the self – “regard one another as more important than yourselves”. When there is conflict or disunity, it would first seem like it is brought about by our differences. However, deeper introspection will show that it’s because of PRIDE! Paul is telling the Philippians to approach daily living with humility and not by selfishness. But how?

Galatians 2:20 directs us to a **SAVING FAITH** -- Paul “died” to his own self to have new life in Christ! The Christian life is not hard, it is impossible. We need the life of Christ in us. **Verses 5-7** show us that even if Christ was in the form (*Gk. morphe, meaning essence*) of God, He was willing to surrender His rights to exercise divinity. Jesus did not stop being God, but He stopped using His privileges as God, in order to suffer and die in our place for the redemption we needed. Likewise, we are to think of others that way – the willingness to surrender our rights and serve for the greater benefit of others. Are we willing to do this even in this difficult and “abnormal” situation with a

WORD (cont'd)

pandemic going on? Are we willing to not hoard so that others with less resources can have something to buy for their families too? As Christians, we should be the first ones to give up our rights to serve others.

John 1:1-3 defines best who Jesus is. The Apostle John calls Jesus “the Word”, and in **v14**, John tells us that “He dwelt among men” (the *hypostatic union of the divine nature and the human nature of Jesus*). This same Jesus suffered and bled on that fateful day in Calvary, was put to shame, and eventually died a humiliating and excruciating death on the cross. Jesus did not have to do any of that but being the “only Way” for us to be freed from our sins and be restored to God, Jesus gave up His life for our lives to be redeemed. **Colossians 1:15-16** – all things were created by Him and for Him! In **Philippians 2:8**, the word “appearance” uses the Greek word “*schema*” (*meaning shape*). Jesus appeared as a man, an exterior form that did not take away His true essence of being God but enabled Him to humble Himself as a servant. In **vv.9-11**, we are given a model of humility in Christ, and shown how His humility was honored by God such that Jesus is and will be, exalted in heaven and on earth.

Peter in **1 Peter 5:5-6** reminds us that to be humble is to trust GOD. You entrust your interest to the LORD such that you can look out for the interests of others instead. It is an amazing privilege to entrust our all to GOD! **Hebrews 12:2** says that Jesus endured the pain and suffering on the cross “for the joy set before Him”, and His joy is our reunion with God. To cure the virus of pride, we need to maintain the joy we have with one another, transform our hearts in accordance to God, and become selfless to the point of our inconvenience for the benefit of others. Instead of focusing on our fears or complaining about the disruptions to our comfort, let’s learn to pray for and encourage others. Be grateful, generous, and thankful no matter how challenging our times are. This is impossible and only doable if we have Jesus at the center of our lives.

When selfishness afflicts us, apply the antidote in **Gal. 2:20**: “*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*” Now, more than ever, let us live lives characterized by the humility of Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** Is it easy for you to be humble? What makes humility a difficult virtue to live out?
- 2. Setting It Right.** Pride may as well be the root of many wrongdoings you are also guilty of. Identify your usual struggles and see if pride can be the root cause of it. Be accountable, share one of your “respectable sins”, something that might not be obvious but pride is at the root of it.
- 3. Living It Out.** The best way to fight pride is to constantly think of others rather than yourself. Do you know of anyone who doesn’t know Jesus yet? Maybe a workmate, classmate, or family member? What steps will you take this week to connect with that person and seek an opportunity to share the gospel to them?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those afflicted with the NCOV19 virus, their families, communities and nations. Seek God’s intervention earnestly, that He may use His people to help bring hope and healing not only physically, but spiritually to the nations. Encourage others with unselfish acts. Do what is most needed now by sharing Christ to family, friends and loved ones who may be battling fears and anxiety.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends