

**BETTER TOGETHER #1**  
**Gen. 1/Ps. 133/Ecc. 4/Phil 1**

**06/07/2020**  
**Sunday a.m.**

**SLIDE 1 – FEEDBACK TIME – Post on FB Live Stream or text 775-322-3004**

**SLIDE 2 – BETTER TOGETHER #1 – SGN**

- 2020 – Compelled by Jesus – Deep love for God, His Word & presence
- Resuming in-person services – temporary hoops to jump through
  - OF COURSE it is better together (after being apart for 10 weeks)
- Studying Philippians – together, partnering in the Gospel Good News message

**SLIDE 3 – GENESIS 2:18**

**SLIDE 4 – NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE**

- Quarantine, shelter @ home, 'solitary confinement,' loss of job/income – suicide
- Before there was sin, before there was brokenness, Adam was alone in Eden
- God made the other creatures in pairs – Adam named them...
  - No suitable partner/helpmeet for Adam – God said, "I can fix that"
  - Help meet – partner, provision, deliverance, strength in companionship

**SLIDES 5-7 – ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12**

**SLIDE 8 – TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE**

- Solomon – everything is 'meaningless' – *like vapor/fleeting breath*
- Enjoy your work, enjoy your spouse/family/friends, food/drink – simplicity
- Hillside values – teamwork, connected relationships, etc...
  - Why do something alone when you can do it with another person?
  - Shared time, shared space, shared experience → relationship

**SLIDE 9 – PSALM 133:1**

**SLIDE 10 – UNITY: IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING**

- A Psalm of Ascent – sung every time pilgrims return to Jerusalem for festivals
- WHY is dwelling together in unity a good/pleasant (beautiful) thing?
  - Cain/Abel, Ishmael/Isaac, Jacob/Esau, 10 tribes/2 tribes, etc...
  - This is the way God intended us to function w/each other
  - Unity ≠ sameness/homogeneity → we're together

**SLIDE 11 – FROM BROTHER TO 'OTHER'**

- We are image-bearers – **Gen. 1:26** – ALL humanity made in the image of God
  - People *different* from us: color, national origin, language, culture, values
- Exploit, take advantage of, justify discriminatory behavior, dehumanize, etc...

- Racial slurs & epithets, derogatory terms for entire people groups, etc...
- In Germany – post-WW2, final solution, occupation, camps, etc.
- Post-Viet Nam – anyone w/Asian looks
- Post-9/11, Muslims/Middle East → Jesus loves & died for all? Did He?
- Current events – Us vs. Them → land of the free, home of the brave
  - Is there systemic racism in the US– deep-rooted discrimination permeating a society over several generations – What? Not me, not us...

### **SLIDE 12 – 3/5**

- A little history – history, govt, civics class – just a couple examples...
- 1787 American Constitutional Convention – creating a society
  - How we will be governed? Checks & balances, Senate, House of reps
  - Senate? 2/state; House? Based on population? What about the South?
  - Basic population density – 1 rep per 30K people
    - Adjusted for population until final # set at 435
  - In the beginning, South wants greater representation in the House & wants to count the slaves... North dissents, fights them
    - 3/5 compromise – South can count 3 out of 5 slaves; 60% human
- No home/land ownership for non-whites
- Oregon Country – whites only law – 1844 – 1922; 1959 ratify black voting rights
- 1947 – Jackie Robinson 1<sup>st</sup> black to break color barrier in MLB
- Nevada – 1964 “Mississippi of the West” – MLK/Bob Bailey fighting for rights
- Great-great grandparents lifetime – all the family stories passed down
- We may think, “This isn’t me. This isn’t how I live/act etc. Not racist.”

### **SLIDE 13 – MATTHEW 7:12-14**

#### **SLIDE 14 – FROM ‘OTHER’ TO BROTHER**

- Do for others what you would have them do for you – if I was in that situation?
- Those that suffer? Ease the suffering. The downtrodden? Come alongside
- Those oppressed, minimized, hurt, rejected – not getting same rights of KOG
  - We are called to be the healing presence of Jesus in our world
  - **Isaiah 58 – John 13:34,35**

### **SLIDE 15 – 1<sup>st</sup> CENTURY PHILIPPI**

- Studying the letter to the Philippians – historical context, background info, other factors informing Paul’s writing to the church there
  - Joyful partnership in the Gospel Good News
  - Philippi one of the main colonies of Rome – enjoyed special privileges
  - On the Via Egnatia – Rome to Constantinople/Istanbul – 600 miles

- 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman empire – the haves & have nots
  - Rome great ‘unifier’ through tyranny
  - Common ruler, language, culture, laws, rights (for citizens & colonies); others, not so much –
    - **Acts 16** – birth of the Philippian church
    - Paul & Silas beaten & thrown into jail w/no process
      - Assumed to NOT be citizens – too bad for you
  - Lydia & the Good Dr. Luke – Luke & Acts, Jailer & his whole family...
- With that said, let’s read a bit of the first chapter

**SLIDES 16-19 – PHILLIPIANS 1:1-11**

**SLIDE 20 – BETTER TOGETHER**

- **Philippians** – a diverse people rallied around Jesus & the Gospel Good News
- Partnering w/Paul – continuing the work of the Missio Dei

**SLIDE 21 – 2020: COMPELLED BY JESUS**

- Theme for 2020 – Compelled, directed (strongly)

**SLIDE 22 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?**

**SLIDE 23 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE – ANNOUNCE THIS**

- Hillside APP – prayer requests – text to church phone or [WEB@Hillside4.org](mailto:WEB@Hillside4.org)
- Make sure “Notifications” are on for both “General” & “Prayer” notifications