

## Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Eight:

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) What is your favourite restaurant? If you could go back to one (any) restaurant that you have eaten at before, where would you go? What would you have?
- b) What is the most tight-knit team or group you have been a part of? What made it such a unified group?

### Passage and Discussion

#### Read *Philippians 2:1-11*

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage?
- b) What has your experience been with unity in the church? Have you seen more proof of unity or disunity within the church (whichever churches you have been a part of)?
- c) What do you think Paul means when he calls the church to be 'one in spirit and of one mind.'?
- d) Take a look at Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in **John 17**? What stands out to you about his focus, and what he prays to the Father (**1-5**), for his disciples (**6-19**), and for us (**20-26**)?
- e) Discuss how unity in the church can be a sign to the world that God is real and that Christ is sent from God, as we see in **John 17:21,23**? What would this look like?
- f) Would you say that you have approached the church more like a restaurant or a family? In what ways? Are there any actions that need to change for you to act rightly within the body?
- g) What is one example, that you see in your life, of pride or selfishness creeping in to your actions and opinions within the church? About what do you need to ask God to help change your focus and your attitude?
- h) Our culture (and our natural instincts) would have you believe that you are the main character in your life. What does this type of thinking lead to? How *should* we see ourselves?
- i) Reading Jesus' example of humility in **v6-8**, how would having this attitude change the way you act / think, etc., in your relationship with others? Within the church?
- j) The translation of **v5** is best understood as 'you have the attitude of Christ in you', rather than a call to produce that attitude yourself. How does understanding this change the way we read this passage, and what our role is in becoming like Christ?
- k) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) Write down some preferences that you have about church that you may need to lay down for the sake of the body – your brothers and sisters? Ask the Spirit to help you release these things and to give you joy in doing so.
- b) Where is God calling you to shift from pride to humility or selfishness to selflessness? Write it down. Think of a first step. Tell your group about it, and ask them to pray for you and to hold you accountable.

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) Pray for the unity of our church. Pray that we can move forward as one body, in one mind and one spirit.
- b) Pray that God would work in your lives, and that you would be changed by the Spirit of God working in you.
- c) Pray for the unity of the larger church in Winnipeg. Pray that the churches in Winnipeg would be unified in reaching our city, and that our unity would be a witness to the world of God's existence and love.

### **Announcements / Service Opportunities**

#### **a) Men's Retreat**

**Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15** at Camp Manitou (Headingley). Men of all ages - join us as we spend the weekend together, playing games, skating, eating (lots of) food, enjoying the great outdoors, and digging into God's Word together, as guest speaker, CMU Professor Pierre Gilbert challenges us to 'Choose the Good' in our lives. Cost: \$135. Contact Dom Gibson ([dgibson@grantmemorial.mb.ca](mailto:dgibson@grantmemorial.mb.ca)) for more information, or register online at [www.grantmemorial.ca](http://www.grantmemorial.ca).