

Lesson 4, PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

We live in a culture that exhorts us to “Be all that we can be”, “Whatever feels good, do it”, “You deserve it”. Paul addresses this attitude in Philippians 2. There are many paradoxes in the Christian life. “Whoever loses his life because of me will save it”, “Whoever humbles himself will be exalted”. The words of Philippians 2 seem to be the antithesis of our culture today.

1. Many of the Jews at the time of Jesus were expecting a revolutionary leader who would rid them of the hated Roman rule. Read Isaiah 52:13- Isaiah 53. This is a prophecy of the Messiah as the Suffering Servant. What phrases show total subjugation?
2. Read Luke 22:24-27. What are the disciples arguing about? What does Jesus tell them? Notice the disunity that pride brings. Read Philippians 2:1-2. What does it say about unity?
3. Read Ephesians 4:3,4 and Colossians 3:14. What do these verses say about unity in the body of Christ?
4. The key words in verse 1 are the “ifs”. What is the power that can give us a servant’s heart like Jesus?
5. Read John 13:34-35. This begs the question of how did Jesus love us? What are your thoughts as you ponder the attitude of Jesus towards others during his ministry on earth?

Application: If we are to love one another as Jesus Christ loves us, how are we doing? Ask the Lord where an area of our lives needs to be tweaked so that we can be all we are called to be as fellow servants of the Lord.

Prayer: “Abba”, “daddy,” Creator of the world, we bow before your majesty but at the same time find comfort and security in your arms. We all tend to fall short of your calling to us, but as a father tenderly guides and encourages his children, You redirect our steps. Keep each of us in the palm of your hand and give us the wisdom and courage to be all you have called us to be. To Your glory and the glory of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

