

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia Message...

#### Joy Through Humble Love

With Shawn Woods - Lead Pastor  
May 17, 2026



Philippians 2:1-5: (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

<sup>2</sup>Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

<sup>3</sup>Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup>Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

<sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

- **Paul's personal goal in this letter is joy.**

- **No one will look out for you, if not you.**

**Have you ever felt it odd that leisure, pleasure, and treasure let you down?**

**1) Love one another.**

**2) Live undistracted.**

*True humility is not thinking less of oneself (that is self-deprecation), but as thinking of oneself less". (C.S. Lewis)*

*When we lack humility, we spend all of our time thinking about our own greatness, we get distracted, which results in those sticky feelings like fear, insecurity, and impatience.*

**Big idea: God lifts up the outcast and the invisible in Jesus.**

"Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich". (2 Corinthians 8:9)

**Action Step: Use something that you are naturally good at, look for an opportunity, and exercise a little creativity.**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Joy Through Humble Love  
#6 of 15 - May 17, 2026**

### **Context**

1. Paul begins Philippians 2 by asking a series of questions about encouragement, love, fellowship, and compassion. Why do you think Paul starts here before talking about humility and unity? What foundation is he building?
2. In the Roman world, humility was often viewed as weakness, yet Paul presents it as a mark of Christlikeness. How would this teaching have challenged the Philippian church—and how does it challenge our culture today?

### **Observation**

3. What specific attitudes and actions does Paul call believers to in verses 2–4? Which phrase stands out to you most and why?
4. The message said, “No one will look out for you, if not you,” is a common mindset in our world. Where do you see that mentality shaping people today? How does Paul offer a different way of living?

### **Meaning**

5. C.S. Lewis said, “True humility is not thinking less of oneself, but thinking of oneself less.” What is the difference between humility and self-deprecation? Why is that distinction important?
6. The big idea was: “God lifts up the outcast and the invisible in Jesus.” How does Jesus’ example—becoming poor so we could become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)—reshape the way we view status, success, and people who are overlooked?

### **Application**

7. The sermon said that pride and self-focus often produce fear, insecurity, impatience, and distraction. Which of those “sticky feelings” do you wrestle with most, and how might humility help loosen its grip?
8. The action step challenged us to use something we are naturally good at to serve others with creativity. What is one gift, strength, or opportunity God has given you that you could intentionally use this week to love and lift up someone else?



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