



June 30, 2019

# DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 2:1-11

**The purpose of this document** is to help us  
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering  
and to **think through the practical**  
**implications of the Scriptures** and then to  
**be intentional about living the word out.**

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Vintage Church Durham



## Complete Connection

Philippians 2:1-2; John 17:20-23; Matthew 12:22-28; Proverbs 16:18-20

### Questions Worth Asking

Jesus prayed for it; the apostles believed that it was the way we were to live...ONE! The concept of being a body of believers is intended to be much more than just a metaphor. The community of Christians are to have a complete connection through Christ. Division destroys a kingdom. Unity, however, can make even a motley crew have an impact that sparks fear into the strongest of foes. Something so powerful as oneness is not achieved by accident, which is why Paul encourages the suffering saints to focus on the love they receive from Christ and the partnership they have in the Spirit. We must fight to form a bond fortified by the faith.

1. Why do you believe the Lord makes such a big deal about connecting in community?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What benefits have you experienced from being in Christ-centered community?
- How did you come to build meaningful relationships in your life?
- What sacrifices have you had to make to maintain the connection with those you care about?

2. What things cause a disruption in your connection with Christ and the church (his bride)?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it so difficult for you to make this connection with others?
- What adverse impacts have you experienced when allowing yourself to be isolated in times of hardship?
- What steps do you need to take to make connecting a critical part of your Christian journey?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you commit to connecting in community...

1. Ask for forgiveness from anyone in the body that has an issue with you and forgive anyone (believer or non-believer) that you have an issue with.
2. **Speak with [Phil Lauria](#)** this month to see how you can position yourself to get connected in community at Vintage Church Durham. Serving the body is essential to your growth and ours.
3. **Read and meditate on [Hebrews 13:17](#); [James 4:6-10](#)**. Submit to the word of God and the leadership that God has given you. Being willing to submit to the order God has instituted demonstrates our trust in him.

## Christ-like Characteristics

Philippians 2:3-8; Matthew 20:20-28; Ephesians 5:15-21

### Questions Worth Asking

The key to guarding against separation among the saints is selflessness. While we may know the key, locking the door on separation requires so much more than sheer will-power. We need to have the mindset that Christ had when he walked on this earth. The Lord was willing to relinquish the right to the power and authority afforded him as God the Son. Instead of adorning the kingly robe of the Son, he put on the lowly garments of a slave. And having voluntarily enlisted himself into servitude, he didn't flinch when called to give his life. He was fully aware that his life was not his own. The only option for Christ was to obey, even to the point of the cross. And the Lord is calling us to follow his lead. Empty yourself of the power and authority given you and take up your cross and follow Christ.

1. Why do you wrestle with relinquishing control and trusting Christ to take care of things?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has pride kept you from submitting to the authority that God has placed in your life (work, home, church, etc.)?
- What devastation have you experienced as a result of making a decision to not consider the needs of others?
- How have you been hurt by the selfishness of others?

2. How has your life been changed by someone's willingness to be selfless towards you in a season of suffering?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How did your life change when you made a decision to be selfless towards someone else in their season of suffering?
- How does focusing on Jesus help you to be more willing to help others in their time of need?
- What cross is the Lord calling you to bear so that someone else might come to experience his love?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you carry your cross for Christ...

1. Commit to serving on a team for a year.  
Ask where the need is and meet the need. Don't ask what am I gifted to do.  
There are seasons where we do what needs to be done. This is that season.
2. Donate an item that you are particularly keen of to a thrift store or someone that has told you they like it.
3. **You know what *it* is...DO IT!!!** That which the Holy Spirit has been impressing on your heart that you have been avoiding. Slaves don't have choices. Do what Christ says.

## Cool Crown

Philippians 2:9-11; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

### Questions Worth Asking

Christ's willingness to give up all positioned him to get all the Father had for him. Jesus had a prize that awaited him on the other side of his persecution. And such blessing awaits all believers that lay down their life in service to their Savior. Paul believed that what he was going through wasn't even worth comparing with where he was going to. It is important for the Christian to remember that they have a crown on the other side of their cross. When we suffer for Christ's sake, we get what Christ's got; we will reign with our Redeemer. This reality positioned Paul to consider his afflictions as light, but that was only because he was comparing them to what awaits. There is nothing worth holding onto in this life when we know what we will get in the life to come.

1. What sacrifices have you been willing to make in an effort to win a prize?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How did you feel about the sacrifices you made after you won the "coveted prize"?
- Why is it necessary at times to give up something in order to get something else of greater value?
- How do you weigh what is worth keeping or letting go when going after something you deem to be of great value?

2. How has the promise of a prize helped you to have a more positive perspective towards persecution?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What have you been willing to relinquish because of the promise of being with God for eternity?
- What has caused you to lose focus of the promise and take matters into your own hands?
- How has trusting Christ and his ability to deliver on giving you a crown helped you to give up control?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you have a heart that is expectant to receive God's best...

1. **Read and meditate on [Revelations 21](#)**. – GET READY FOR HOME!!! He's coming to get us. ([John 14:1-3](#))

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*<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

***Revelations 21:22-23***

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2. **Praise in Persecution:** Stop complaining about where you are and start looking at what you get in return for what you give. The return on investment causes the pain to pale in comparison. It actually doesn't even register on the chart.