

REFLECT

1. Growth group debate: Do you prefer ice cream or whipped cream on pie? More importantly, does pineapple belong on pizza?
2. How did this week's sermon expand your wonder at the person of Jesus Christ?

ENCOUNTER

Jesus said, "All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:15). One of the most mysterious yet glorious truths of John 13-17 is the deep intimacy of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What is almost as glorious and mysterious is that we are united into that relationship. The Holy Spirit so unites us to Jesus that his death is our death, and his resurrected life is our resurrected. Jesus' story becomes our story.

This was the heartbeat of Paul's theology. Not only are we saved by Christ's death and resurrection, but when we are saved, his story becomes our story.

3. Paul teaches the Philippian believers to have the mind of Christ in Philippians 2:5-11. If you had to "chart" out the life of Christ, what might it look like?
4. Paul showed the Philippians how Christ's story became his own story and his own mind in Philippians 3:7-11. What did he set aside? What did he want?

5. This otherwise pleasant church was facing a conflict. According to Philippians 4:2, what was it?
6. Paul wants Christ's story to reshape the church in Philippi, so he connects the mind of Christ to their situation. What same key word occurs in Philippians 2:2, 2:5, and 4:2?

TRANSFORM

7. Paul enlisted a "true companion" (4:3) to assist in this conflict. Without knowing the specifics of their conflict, what advice might you give to Euodia and Syntyche if you were the "true companion?"
8. How can conflicts, even within a local church, be an opportunity to know Christ in the fellowship of this suffering and the glory of his resurrection?

PRAYER REQUESTS

One More Disciple

*Jesus's story of dying and rising defines our story.
So I should expect in the good work of love to go through something
that in a slight way mirrors Jesus's dying.*

~ Paul Miller ~