



“Serving Over Self”

We live in a world that bombards us with living for ourselves. When you combine this emphasis in culture with our own sin disease it makes it easy for us to forget, as Christians, what we should value most. In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul encourages his readers to realize that Jesus didn’t consider his own status as God something to live for, but rather Jesus chose to consider others, humble Himself, and serve...ultimately by giving His life away. In light of this, Paul encourages his readers to view their lives as a reenactment of Jesus’ life. In a world that values self, value serving.

Jeremy shared a personal story of sacrifice in his life and how he didn’t like it.

1. If you feel comfortable, share a personal story of sacrifice in your own life. Did you want to do it? Why or why not?
2. Looking back on that story now, do you have a different perspective than you did in the moment?
3. What is one thing that resonated with you from the sermon?

Read Genesis 3

4. Why did Adam and Eve take advantage of the opportunity to be equal with God, and what was the result?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

5. Why did Jesus refuse to exploit his equality with God, and what was the result?

Paul encourages his readers to view their lives as a reenactment of Jesus' life.

6. In what areas of your life/heart do you view your life as a reenactment of Jesus' life? In what areas do you not?

7. Jeremy shared that one reason valuing serving over living for yourself is important is because true joy and a deep sense of peace is found in living this way. Has thinking of yourself first made you more joyful and given you a sense of peace in your life? Explain either way.

Read Philippians 2:5, 2:12-13, 4:13

8. How does Paul encourage his readers to live this way?

Action Step: Take some time to pray as a group. Express gratitude for who Jesus is, acknowledge any specific mindsets that may be hindering your example, and pray for Jesus' humble attitude to reshape your life and community.

When we know and experience Jesus' love in a personal way it will change us. It will change our hearts and widen our scope to think of others and to value serving others. What would it be like if our church valued serving over self? What would the impact be if our church relied on the strength of the Holy Spirit and chose a posture of serving with our lives. May we all in a world that values self, value serving.