

One Another: “The Break in the Cup”

Growth Group Discussion

Philippians 2:1-4

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Share about one group you’ve been part of that was especially unified—perhaps a sports team, or musical group, or drama production, or church group, etc. What enabled that group to have such unity?

1. Read Phil. 1:27 and 2:1-4, then discuss the following.

- In 1:27, Paul described the task around which he wants followers of Christ to be unified. How would you describe that task, in your own words?
 - Extending on the intro question, have you been part of any group that was unified around this particular task? What was that experience like?
 - When have you experienced unity around the task of sharing the gospel during your involvement at 3VC?

2. In 2:1, Paul lists a number of gifts that Jesus gives us in relationship with him.

Discuss them as follows:

- *Encouragement (consolation) from being united with Christ.*
 - Can you share about a time or season when you experienced this kind of encouragement from your relationship with Jesus?
 - What regular practices help you to have this experience?
- *Comfort from his love.*
 - How does the love of Jesus offer you comfort?
 - What practices help you to take advantage of this comfort?
- *Any common sharing in the Spirit.*
 - What do you think Paul is referencing here?
 - How have you experienced this fellowship with the Spirit, either individually or with others?
- *Any tenderness or compassion.*
 - Pastor Josh used the image of a meat tenderizer to describe how Jesus and the gospel bring about tenderness and compassion in us. What experiences has Jesus used in your life to tenderize you?
- Looking back over the last year and a half, what aspects of your relationship with Jesus have been most life-giving for you?

3. In vv. 2-4, Paul gives us the “one another” command that stems from the benefits listed in v. 1. Discuss as follows:

- Why is *humility* a critical characteristic to being able to do what we’re asked to do here?
- We are told here to “Value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.”
 - What are some practical ways that other people have done this for you, placing your interests above theirs?

- Do you currently have any specific ways that you are being challenged to do this?
- What do you think is the balance between self-care—seeing that your own legitimate needs are met—and laying down your interests for those of others?
- How do “selfish ambition and vain conceit” come in the way of gospel unity?
- Pastor Josh said on Sunday that we have a hard time following this instruction because we have an “emotional and spiritual cup that leaks.” What has this “leak” looked like in your experience?
 - How do the benefits described in v. 1, provide you with the constant refilling that you need?
 - How does this constant refilling enable us to do the things asked in vv. 2-4?
 - Do you think it is possible to experience the benefits described in v. 1, and not take the actions described in vv. 2-4? If so, what moves one from mere experience to action?
 - What does all of this have to do with being unified around the task of sharing the gospel?
- **Read Phil. 2.5-11.** In what ways do the actions of Jesus, described here, add clarity to what Paul asks of us?
- **Do you feel that you are being motivated to any specific application steps as a result of this study?**

PRAYER:

- Take time to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.
- Pray about the action steps that this study requires.