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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Power and Priority of Christian Unity (Pt. 2)
Philippians 2:1-11
Series: The Joy Factor

Central Passage

Philippians 2:3–5 (ESV) — 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Central Thought: As followers of Christ, we are called to a radical unity, transformative unity that flows from an experiential understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

- ❖ The appeal to unity: Give what you've been given in Christ. (Phil. 1:1-2)

Ephesians 4:1–6 (ESV) — 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- ❖ The pathway to unity: Humility and deference for the sake of Christ. (Phil. 1:3-4)

Colossians 3:11–15 (ESV) — 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (See also Galatians 3:25-29)

Mark 8:34–35 (ESV) — 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

- ❖ The personal example of Jesus: From "emptiness" to exaltation. (Phil. 1:5-11)

John 13:3–5 (ESV) — 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

1 Peter 5:6 (ESV) — 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

Homework

- ❖ Prayerfully read through Philippians.
- ❖ Ask God to reveal areas of pride and self-centeredness in your life.