

Introduction: “What’s going on?”

- One of God’s greatest joys is to see His children _____
_____.
- A prayer that only you can answer John 17
- Paul commands what Jesus prayed Philippians 2:1-2

Now if your experience of Christ’s encouragement and love means anything to you, if you have known something of the fellowship of His Spirit, and all that it means in kindness and deep sympathy, do make my best hope for you come true! Live together in harmony, live together in love, as though you had only one mind and one spirit between you.

Philippians 2:1-4 (J.B. Phillips Translation)

Structure of passage:

The context = Conflict without
Conflict within
Philippians 1:29-30
Philippians 4:2

The command = Live in authentic, Christ-empowered unity
Philippians 2:1-2

The structure = If you have any encouragement in Christ,
If any comfort from His love.
If any fellowship with the Spirit,
If any tenderness and compassion...
Philippians 2:1

Then make my joy complete by...

1. Being of the same mind
 2. Maintaining the same love
 3. United in spirit
 4. Intent on one purpose.
- Philippians 2:2

The Platinum Rule:

“Do unto others as God has already done unto you.”

How to become a more loving person:

1. Choose to declare war on _____

³ Do nothing from **selfishness** or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Philippians 2:3

- 3 characteristics of people who are genuinely humble:

1. They have a reasonably _____ of themselves.
2. They _____ more deeply and _____ others.
3. They are _____

2. Attack the root of the problem... _____

³ Do nothing from selfishness or **empty conceit**, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Philippians 2:3

3. Choose to _____ daily by putting others' needs and interests ahead of your own

⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Summary: Love's Identity = "I am second"

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is our unity so important to God? Read *John 13:34-35* for added insight.
2. On what basis are we to be motivated toward authentic unity in relationships (Philippians 2:1)?
3. What does “declaring war” on selfishness look like in your life? Discuss the “paradox” of servant living and personal joy.
4. What is the impact of practicing humility in the lives of family? Neighbors? Coworkers? The world in general?
5. What specific relationship needs a “dose” of “**I am second**” mindset this week? Home? Work? Friends?
6. Share one specific step you will take this week to practice the “Platinum Rule”.