

# REJOICE

IN THE LORD ALWAYS ■

## A 6 Week Sermon Series on Philippians

**Week Three: Jesus Doesn't Just Want to be in Your Heart, He Wants to be in Your Mind Too.**

**Philippians 2:1-18**

**1) In v. 3-5, Paul compels us to do three specific things if we love him or Christ:**

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit**
- Regard others as better than yourselves**
- Look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others**

**Which of these three do you find hardest to do and why?**

**Which of these actions do you appreciate most when done by someone else?**

**Each of these implicitly involves paying a price, giving up something. What is the price for each of these actions?**

**2) What practical suggestions do you have to share with your group about how to, “in humility regard others as better than yourselves,” from times in your life you have succeeded at this?**

**3) We are very familiar with modern, Western ideas of what a flourishing, productive society looks like. Sociologists and economists would say that the following are marks of a vibrant society: increasing incomes, GDP growth, good infrastructure, accessible and quality education, etc. Those are things world leaders would be proud of.**

**According to this passage what are the marks of a community Jesus would be proud of?**

**Which of these are encouraged by American culture?**

**Which are discouraged by American culture?**

**4) If we follow God's command to live out v. 2-5, what does American culture tell us the result will be?**

**What does Jesus tell us the result will be? (see Matthew 16:25-26 and Matthew 23:11-12 if other passages would be helpful)**

**5) Besides the cross, what points in Jesus' life do you think were the hardest for Him to live out v. 6-7 and v. 3-4? And why?**

**6) v.12-14. When Paul says, "God is at work in you," that could be interpreted metaphysically (God is physically inside us) or metaphorically (God is at work in the circumstances of our lives). We know that God does both. Which do you think Paul is speaking of here? Or is he speaking of both?**

**Does the rest of v. 13 provide any clues to which it might be?**

**What is the precise way that God is at work in us, according to v. 13?**

**7) Take a few minutes of silent prayer. Ask God to show you one thing from this passage you could focus on this week to be more like Jesus. Assign a group member to bring this silent prayer time to a close. Then, share with your group what you sensed God saying.**