

A Life Worth Living
Session 3 May 5 2024 A New Attitude
Philippians 2:1-11

Resource: 'A Life worth Living' Video 3, 5/5 A New Attitude
(All videos can be found at www.woodside-church.org under the Sermons tab)

Icebreaker: What things make you happy and why do they make you feel that way?

Introduction

Key Point: Our lives are re-shaped by Jesus so that His attitudes become our own

Key Verse: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (v.5)

What Christ-like attitude do you most appreciate or aspire to, and why?

1. Paul's Appeal for Unity (Philippians 2:1-2)

The Point: We're happiest when we're united with Christ and united with each other

Although he is in prison (1:14) Paul is full of joy (1:18) because he is united to the love of Christ (v.1).
If the church will be similarly united with each other, Paul's joy will be complete (v.2), but disunity will spoil it.

Paul lists three types of unity in v.2:

"being like minded" not necessarily agreeing, but the same approach and attitude *"having the same love"*
not loving the same things, but a common emotion of love *"one in spirit and purpose"* the same ultimate goal
and purpose

Illustration: Share a story about a positive resolution to a situation of conflict in your own life or between some people you know

Application: Think of a situation you feel unhappy about and how you might change it by fostering unity in our homes, workplaces or relationships

2. Wrong Attitudes (Philippians 2:3-4)

The Point: Wrong attitudes destroy unity

Paul lists three wrong attitudes that can rob us of joy and destroy our unity:

"selfish ambition" (v.3) a desire to succeed is good only if it seeks God's will and glory rather than our own self-importance

"vain conceit" (v.3) humility is the opposite of thinking we're a 'VIP'

"self-centredness" (v.4) instead we focus on the interests of others

Application: Imagine you're at your own funeral. What would you like to hear others say about you as a person? Write one or two key words down and ask yourself whether that is a good aim to have, and how you are doing on achieving it. (Hand out post-it notes and do this exercise together)

Of the wrong attitudes that Paul identifies, are there any that you struggle with?

What do you think about the idea of "wasting" your life on other people as the meaning of life?

3. Right Attitudes (Philippians 2:5-11)

The Point: Jesus is the ultimate example to us of what right attitudes look like

Paul identifies three ways that Jesus “let go” of his status for us:

- his *natural* status (v.6)

Jesus climbed down the ladder of achievement not up it, to reach us
He was ambitious and determined for our sakes and not for himself

- his *social* status (v.7)

Jesus climbed down from the top of the social ladder to reach us
The King of Kings and Lord of Lords made himself nothing to serve us
This is the opposite of vain conceit and self-importance

- his *legal* status (v.8)

utterly humbled himself – even letting go of his right to live
suffered injustice and died as a criminal

Jesus became like us, so that we might become like him

This is the path to greatness in God’s eyes (v.9-11)

How are you challenged by Paul’s attitude whilst in prison?

How can you follow the example of Jesus in “downward mobility” , humble service and unselfish love in your life?

Application: Humility often seems so hard to live by – Pray in silence for a moment. Ask God to reveal to you any wrong attitudes that you can repent of and begin to put right with his help. Perhaps read out Romans 12:2 and ask the Holy Spirit to come and do His work of renewal and transformation in these areas. Then break into pairs or smaller groups and pray through these.

Ideas for Ministry

- Together in prayer thank God for the happiness he has given us – the good relationships we enjoy and the work he has given us