

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

We Are All In This Together

Week of September 23, 2018 A.D.

Christianity is not a spectator sport. Jesus commands each of us to love and to serve Jesus and one another.

Read Philippians 2:19 – 24

1. Read verse 19. In your opinion, why did Paul say, “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send...” instead of simply saying “I hope to send Timothy to you...”? Is there a lesson to be learned by Paul’s expression of “hope in the Lord Jesus”? If so, what is that lesson?
2. Read verse 20. In your opinion, what type of action would be evidence of “a genuine interest” in another person’s welfare? Also, what do you think is the best definition of “another person’s welfare”? Does Jesus command and expect all Christians to take positive action for the welfare and benefit of others? Please explain your answers.
3. Read verse 21. How does a person’s self-interest differ from the interests of Jesus Christ? In the context of these verses, what are the “interests of Jesus Christ”? Please explain your answers.
4. What are some examples of our “own interests” which are (or may be) different from the interests of Jesus Christ? Why are those interests different from each other? Does God expect our interests and His interests to be the same? Please explain your answers.
5. In verse 22, Paul states that Paul has a father-son type of relationship with Timothy. In your opinion, should older Christians seek-out and disciple younger Christians by working together in the ministries of your church? If not, why not? If so, please explain how that can be accomplished.

Read Philippians 2:3 – 4

6. Are these verses commands from God? Or, are these verses simply suggestions which we may choose not to follow? What difference does it make, if any? Please explain your answer.

7. Please explain the meaning of verse 3. Please give examples of how verse 3 can be put into everyday practice within and among your church family.

8. Please explain the meaning of verse 4. What specific ministries can and/or should be existing and functioning on a continuous basis within your church family in order to demonstrate obedience to the command stated in verse 4?

Read Philippians 2:25 – 29

9. Please explain the meaning of each of the words which are used to describe Epaphroditus in verse 25. Please explain how each of those words can and should be applied to yourself and to all followers of Jesus.

10. Would you consider Epaphroditus to be the equivalent of what we now call: (a) a missionary and/or (b) a minister? Are all Christians called by God to be both missionaries and ministers? Please explain your answers.

11. Read verse 29. What does Paul mean by “honor men like him”? Is it important and/or commanded by God that the church honor those who serve as missionaries and/or in full time ministry? If not, why not? If so, why and how? Please explain your answers.

12. What do these verses teach about the role and the responsibilities of all Christians to love God, to love people, and to “make disciples of all nations”? Please explain your answer.

Consider: Being a Christian is not just a part of your life. Being a Christian is your life. We are all in this together. “You think about that.” Amen.