

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of September 17, 2023 A.D.

We Are All in This Together

Christianity is not a spectator sport. Jesus commands His followers to be actively involved in building the Kingdom of God on planet earth. Jesus commands each of us: to love and to serve Jesus; to love and to serve one another; and, to live as brothers and sisters within His family on earth which is known as "the church".

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

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 use of the expression "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? What do you think is the best definition of "another person's welfare"? Does Jesus command and expect all Christians to take positive action to promote the welfare and the benefit of others?
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"?
4. What are some examples of our "own interests" which are (or may be) different from the interests of Jesus Christ? Why do those differences exist? Does God expect our interests and His interests to be the same?
5. In verse 22, Paul declares that Paul has a father-son relationship with Timothy. In your opinion, should older Christians disciple younger Christians by intentionally choosing to work with one another as a team within the volunteer 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?
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 2:25-30

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 apply 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? Does God expect all Christians to be missionaries and/or ministers?
11. Read verse 29. What does Paul mean by "honor men like him"? Is it important for, and does God require, the church to honor those who serve as missionaries and/or who otherwise serve in full time ministry within the church of Christ? If not, why not? If so, why and how? Please explain your answers.
12. What do these verses teach about the responsibility of every Christian to love God, to love people, and to "make disciples of all nations"?

Consider: Being a Christian is not just a small portion of your daily life. Being a Christian is your daily life. As the blood-bought church of Jesus Christ, we are all in this together. "You think about that." Amen.