

# 8/14/23-SERIES- 'MORE THAN' (#11)

## PASTOR LEE

Relationships:  
Jesus at  
Center  
Not About  
'ME'

- Focus today: Jesus being the center of our relationships and our opportunities to love everyone with whom we have contact.
- First, prayer request: Great Valley church plant.....hosting free soccer clinic Thursday and Friday morning this week.....pray for kids/families/support.
- Emphasis: Phil 2: 3....."count others MORE significant than yourselves".  
Pastor Lee: ....so .."when it's about ME, it's NOT about YOU....we want to begin today to focus on others". ...."not ourselves"...sounds easy but a struggle!

Phil 2:1-11  
Stresses:  
Love, Unity,  
One in Mind/  
Spirit

- Request: we read Chapter 1 on our own. Phil 2:1-11 - - (1) So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others MORE significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others. (5) Have this mind amongst yourselves, which is yours in Christ, Jesus, (6) who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. (7) but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men (8) And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (10) so that at the name of Jesus every kneeshall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to glory of God the Father.

Count Others  
More Important  
Through Christ  
!!

- Again, ... (V3) ... "in humility, count other people MORE than yourselves".....emphasis on YOU, NOT ME. Before one puts their faith and trust in Jesus, it's all about 'self'...self interests, self esteem, self worth, etc. That's what the world push us to/leads us toward.
- That mindset changes when you accept Christ. Don't have to save yourself in any respect....Christ does that for you!...completely revamps you! With the Spirit of God within you, its effects and power are natural and life-changing.

He Died  
For us--

Let's Reflect  
His Love

- Before Jesus died on the cross (for you and me), He had left heaven to become man - - - on a rescue mission for lost people. We were born into sin (Adam and Eve)...the punishment for that was death and separation from God for eternity. Yet God wanted to have a relationship with us....at of great sacrifice....sent His Son. A sinless/perfect Son who loved us so much, He shed His blood on the cross as a means of forgiveness. The substitute for ourselves....so we wouldn't have to die, he died! Atonement...at one with God.
- So, Paul's message in verses above....is saying, notwithstanding our sinfulness, our Lord's love and sacrifice and redemption, etc., it would, at the least be joyful, if you would regard other people MORE THAN yourselves. Focus on relationships...others....because the Spirit of God is in your life.

Despite Our Differences-  
Be of same Mind!

- "Be of the same mind (v5)...irrespective of how incredibly different we all are (ethnicity, geography, jobs, interests, etc.)...yet.....with joy in and focus on Christ (Christ first!), Paul implores that we reflect this love in our relationships with all with whom we come in contact. In doing so, collectively, we are all unified in Jesus! So we take care of each other....our Church. However, if we, in our Church and all Churches, spread that same love throughout the community(ies), imagine the exponential effect(s)!

Discard All Distractions!

- Distractions cause us to lose that 'other than self' focus. Big example: smart phones. Reminiscing, in the 'pre-digital age', much more interaction amongst people, families, dinners, meetings, etc. Constant phone attention/multi-tasking now culturally acceptable. Does not contribute but detracts from the joy/fruits of effective/personal communications and relationships. Certainly, lessens our 'one-mindedness' to which Paul calls us.

Be Selfless!

- These passages are telling us that..... **OUR JOB, AS CHRIST-FOLLOWERS, IS TO LOOK AT EVERY SOUL THAT GOD HAS CREATED AND VIEW THEM AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OURSELVES.**  
- We really need to control the cultural distractions (phones, etc.) to accomplish this and re-set priorities. (Grand irony.....in our current world, we- - and especially kids - - -suffer from the fact that the more 'connected' we are, the lonelier we are.....leading to depression, self-centeredness, etc. We need to consciously re-structure to avoid this pitfall.

Love People

- Be of one mind.....be of one love.....need to be connected with each other to do this. Remember (1John)....we love (have the capacity) because He first loved us. That's the Source from which love emanates. Love People....make that your mind-set....disadvantage yourselves in favor of your neighbor.  
- So with humility....(back to V3).... Count others (EVERY PERSON) more significant than yourselves. Humility: **HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOUR SELF; HUMILITY IS THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS!!** Resist the gravitational pull toward pride....pride is about self.....rather, honor/take pride in/ esteem those around us.

With Great Affect

- The ramifications and effects of all this (making all other people more important than yourselves) would make your world (and all of ours) so much better...exponentially as more and more people responded. Its not our natural tendency but it's imperative.

Challenge: Serve Others Unconditionally

- How do we, practically, develop this 'others-centered' mind-set.....eg. greet people personally/enthusiastically....compliment....exude positiveness.....connect.....gift-give...treat as all-important...., in and out of Church. Unconditional respect, kindness and love....not expected but positively impactful and contagious.  
- **JESUS CAME- - NOT TO BE SERVED- - BUT TO SERVE AND GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY. THEREFORE, LET US ALL SERVE!!!**

Imitate Jesus!!!

- Pastor Lee/Personal Observation: In his experience, some of the meanest/unfriendliest people live right here in Chester County, Pa. The temptation is to blend in and imitate them/responding 'in kind'.....tells 'Aldi mean lady story'. This anger and frustration...they don't have Jesus....they are self-absorbed and scared. **CHALLENGE:** Lets counter that with friendlessness, kindness, love and reaching out affirmatively and positively to all we can.....bringing joy of Jesus to this area!!!