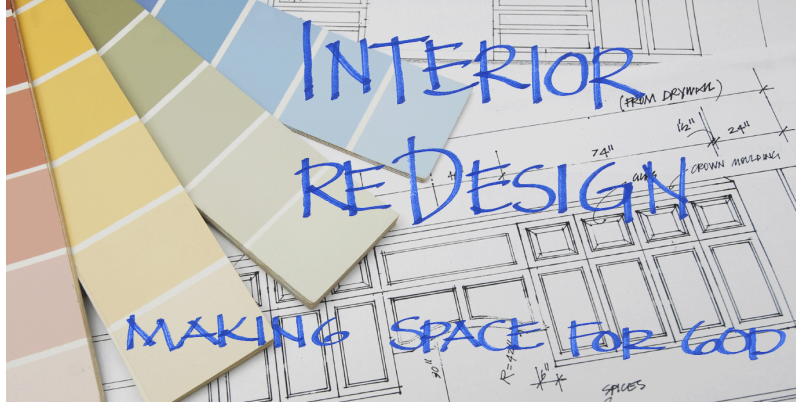


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Open House

Philippians 2:1-13

Imitating Christ's Humility

1If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

8And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Shining as Stars

12Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Feb 24

Big Idea: When we invite other believers into our lives we are able to work out what God is working in us.

Key Verse:

Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage.

Discussion Questions

1. Spend some time thinking through this series. What aspect of it stood out for you the most? Why?
2. **Look at the Philippians passage again. Where in the passage do you see Paul highlighting the need for us to connect with one another?**
3. **Why is humility such a key component of this “one another connection”?**
4. What is the importance of the example of Christ as it relates to community? (*Leader note: With this question I am asking your group to wrestle with a question Tom posed in the message: What did it feel like for God to invite human beings into His community—a community that was perfect, whole, not lacking anything?*)
5. “Community challenges our desire to be the master” (Tom Van Antwerp). How does it do this? Why is this important?
6. Paul uses a refrain as he encourages the Philippians church—“make my joy complete”. Jesus used this same refrain in John 15:9-12. What is the context of Jesus use of this refrain? How does this promote the “one another connection” element?
7. **How will you make an effort this week to look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others?**
8. **Who do you know who can benefit from joining a LIFE Community? Have you invited them? Consider inviting them again.**

Leaders Notes

1. *This series is followed up on Sundays with breakout classes. The booklets are called “Making Space for the Shepherd. Booklets from these classes are available online or in the office for the leader. There are some great follow up exercises in the booklet to keep your group on track.*
2. *There is a resource library in 2 Militia with some good resources to use.*
3. *Additional resources on Simplicity, Solitude and Silence:*
 - a) *Invitation to Solitude and Silence—Ruth Haley Barton*
 - b) *Celebration of Discipline—Richard Foster*
 - c) *Simplify—Paul Borthwick*

Retreat Options

- *Steve Macchia’s LTi program is one of the retreat and spiritual formation programs that Tom referenced. Their Soulcare retreat is the silent retreat the staff went on. Find out when the next retreat is and consider joining it as an individual or as a group. We will be running a retreat for Grace Chapel people on March 15th. It will be a morning retreat at the church.*
- *Grace Chapel is working on a silent retreat for individuals and groups. Stay posted for when this is available.*
- *February 12-16 will be a time of sacred spaces at Grace Chapel. At set times the church will be open for people to come in and spend some time in solitude and silence with God. Make us of this time.*