

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Philippians 2: 1 - 4

(Sunday, October 3)

1.
 - a. Describe a time you were part of a sports team or other organization marked by a deep sense of camaraderie and oneness. What are some factors that brought unity to this group? What were the benefits you witnessed as a result?
 - b. Who do you admire because they truly put the interests of others ahead of their own interests?

2.
 - a. Scholars point out Paul's "if" statements (v. 1) could be translated "since." In other words, Christians do enjoy these advantages. How have you experienced one of the blessings in 2:1? (For instance, what encouragement from Christ have you received? Or how has God's love comforted you?)
 - b. What are the implications of Paul's claim that the same Spirit of God indwells all believers?

3.
 - a. Paul called for the Philippians to be "of the same mind" and "of one mind" (v. 2), but he doesn't say we should bring our thinking in line with each other. What is the difference between unity and uniformity? Which word best describes OCF?
 - b. What instead is to be the center around which Christians unite?
 - c. How can believers do this and yet retain their God-given diversity?

4.
 - a. Paul clearly sees personal humility as a necessary ingredient in the church's unity. What does it mean to consider someone "more significant than yourselves" (v. 3)?
 - b. How does humility differ from being a doormat?
 - c. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less. Agree or disagree? Why or why not?

5.
 - a. Is it wrong ever to think of your own interests (v. 4)? Why or why not?
 - b. How do you balance putting the needs of others with meeting your own needs?
 - c. Think of five significant people in your life and their interests. What are some ways you could selflessly put their needs first?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Philippians 2: 4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, help OCF to be united in Christ. Help us to have unity centered on your love. Thank you for your comfort. Thank you that we share in the same Spirit. Give me courage to bring reconciliation where there is disunity. Help me to not just look after my own interest, "but also the interests of others." In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.