

## I. Introduction

- A. Why do you think we look after ourselves above all else? Why do you think we pursue our own glory?
- Social Media tends to expose our self-ism. It is an avenue for promoting self.
    - Why do we not want a group picture to be posted if our face is awkward? Why do we doctor the picture until we think it's perfect? Why do we spend hours filtering through photos until we find the right one?
  - Youtube: its motto is, broadcast yourself. It is used as a forum to share original video footage to billions of people across the world. There is a sense in which you are wanting others to see just how awesome you are.
  - Are you a person who can not be joked with?
  - Why do athletes play for themselves?
- B. Self-ism: concentration on one's own interests; self-centeredness or self-absorption.
- Self-ism is understood to be sinful in the Christian life.
  - How did we get there?
    - Adam and Eve in Genesis 3
  - How can we change?
    - Christ
  - This can be challenging to agree with because you grow up in a culture that celebrates self-ism. Popular culture sees self-ism as positive, awesome, and self-confidence.
    - This makes perfect sense because a selfist does not believe in a god but rather he or she believes that each person is their own god. They believe in themselves. And these people are considered to be cool, awesome, and confident in the eyes of the world.
  - We functionally live like this. That is independent of Christ. Paul is calling us to be imitators of Christ.
- C. Because Christ set aside His glory, became like man and died a death on the cross, we can have life and receive joy in counting others more significant than ourselves.

## Read Philippians 1:27-2:11

## II. Lesson

- A. First, Who is this Jesus?
- He is God. As God, could've he had advantages, here, on Earth? Did He use them to gain position? (He did not utilize those advantages that He had as God)
    - How did he live on Earth? What did he own? What was His social status?
      - We say yes to every opportunity to use our personal advantages for selfish purposes. Christ said no to utilizing his divine position and his unlimited power for his own selfish pursuits.
        - the One who existed in the form of God said no to the selfish usage of his position as God and said yes to the form of a servant.
    - **The point:** Even though Christ knew He was God he did not use it for gain and get for Himself, but rather he used his divine status to gain for others in giving Himself. How so?
- B. Second, How did Jesus handle his glory and honor?
- **First, consider Isaiah 6 & John 17:5 & John 1:1-4**

- Where did God the Son come from? What was His life like before taking on flesh?
- **Isaiah 6:** It is Christ who is on the throne. It is a vision of Christ's greatness and grandness. His Power and Glory! So much so that Isaiah fell to his knees and could not look.
- Christ was glorious and he chose to sit aside his glory and honor for you and me. The one who all things were made through and for, became a servant. He became human in order to serve and not be served
  - **Consider John 13:1-20** and Jesus' explanation for washing the disciples' feet
    - You have the Son of God bending his knee to wash the feet of his disciples. The one who they were created through was on His knees cleaning their feet. It is a beautiful picture of service.
    - **Here's the point:** "The one who could have rightfully claimed the highest position in human history and justly received supreme honors deliberately sought the lowest position and submitted himself to extreme humiliation" in becoming man and dying a death on a cross so that we could have life and be reconciled to God the Father and one another.
- **Uber surprise:** When a celebrity or professional athlete goes incognito as an uber driver. Have you seen this? How do the people respond when they find out the truth about his or her driver? Go Crazy. Why? Because you don't expect this famous person to choose to be with you.
- Christ chose to set aside his glory in order to be made like you so that you could be reconciled to God the Father and receive life.

### III. Now What?

- A. Have this mind among you which is yours in Christ.
  - This is an appeal for unselfishness and not a self-asserting life.
- Are you looking to Christ to satisfy the deep longings of your heart to "be somebody" significant?
- In an interview with an US Olympic Swimmer in Brazil, he responded to a question about his performance like this:
  - "Yeah, I just think the past week, there's just been an enormous amount of pressure, and I've felt it. You know, it's just an identity crisis. When my mind is on this, thinking I'm defined by this, then my mind goes crazy, but we both know our identity is in Christ... And we're just, we're thankful for this opportunity to be able to dive in front of Brazil, in front of the United States, and it's been an absolutely thrilling moment for us."
- This guy was admitting to the struggle in living for self in his respective sport and acknowledging his dependence upon Christ. His relationship with Christ changed everything for him.
- Joy and a full life is found in living in Christ. Living in Christ is the only way we can humbly counting others more significant than yourselves. Because of his humility we have been raised to new life, a life that seeks unity amongst brothers and sisters in Christ
- Selfism causes division, but humility brings about unity