



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

November 28, 2010

Joy to the World!

(A study in Philippians)

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“JOY-N-Conflict” Philippians 2:1-11

The Cause of our Conflict: Pride vv2-3

(Pro. 13:10; Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:15, 20-21; Ja. 3:14-15)

- ☐ Pride is a desire to promote ourselves because we are empty of glory (weight, significance and importance).
- ☐ We were created to stand in the very presence of God and receive His favor but because we turned away from God our spiritual alienation has left us empty (psychological alienation).
- ☐ Our psychological alienation is characterized by Perfectionism, Criticism, Defensiveness, and Self-absorption.

The Cure to our Conflict: Humility vv3-4 (Luke 14:7-11, 18:14; Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:2; 1Pet.5:5; 1Cor. 10:24, 32-33; Ja.2:8)

- ☐ I can lack almost anything but if I lack humility it will destroy me for all eternity because it is what connects me to God. (James 4:6; Ps. 147:6)
- ☐ True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but it is thinking of yourself less. It is a blessed self-forgetfulness.

The Change from Pride to Humility: Christ vv5-11

(John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; Gal.4:4-5; Heb. 2:14-17, 4:14-16)

- ☐ Humility is not found by direct pursuit but is the by-product of seeing and being seized by the Glory of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ Jesus Christ (2nd Person of Triune God) emptied Himself not of His deity but of His Glory so that you might be full (weight, significance, importance). V7

The Consistent life of Humility: Communion v1

(Ro.5:1-2,5,8:9-16,26; Ps.149:4; Mk 9:35; Jn. 5:44; 2Cor10:17-18)

- ☐ Because I have fullness in Jesus Christ through His encouragement, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit, affection and sympathy I can empty myself (Humility) for others fullness in Christ.

- ☐ Here's the Gospel trajectory: The way up is down. The way to be truly rich is to give. The way to rule is to serve. The way to be infinitely happy is to seek the happiness of others. The greatest form of glory is to give away your glory for someone else.



Growing

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- 1) Why do you think the extent to which two people in a relationship can bring up and resolve issues is a critical marker of the soundness of the relationship? How can conflict in relationships give opportunity for greater levels of intimacy and maturity?
- 2) Read Philippians 2:1-11. What immediately stands out to you from this text? What is the cause of our conflict? Verse 3 says – “Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit.” How do these two words define pride? Where does pride come from and what is it characterized by?
- 3) What is the cure to our conflict? What is humility? I can lack almost anything but if I lack humility it will destroy me (James 4:6; Ps. 147:6). Explain. True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but it is thinking of yourself less. Explain what that means and why is that true (vv3-4)? Reflect on some of the cross references in this section on your sermon notes.
- 4) Verses 5-11 is an amazingly famous passage in the Bible about the incarnation of Christ. It’s a song of praise to the deity of Jesus Christ to the greatness of what He has done. Why would Paul do this in the middle of this very practical teaching on conflict? Where is humility found?
- 5) What does it mean Jesus emptied Himself so that we might be full? How can we have a consistent life of humility (v1)? What is the Gospel trajectory? Pray.