

REDISCOVERING JOY

Reduce Conflict

January 24, 2010

FBC Port A

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8

Php 2:2 NLT *Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.*

HOW TO HAVE UNITY

(In Your Family, Business, or Church)

1. DEFUSE Competition (vs. 3a)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition ..."

"Never act from motives of rivalry ..." (Ph)

"There must be no competition among you ..." (JB)

James 4:1-2 NLT *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.*

2. DELETE Conceit (vs. 3b)

Php 2:3 NLT *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*

"Never act from motives of personal vanity" (Ph)

"Don't do anything ... from a cheap desire to boast" (GN)

Pro 13:10 NLT *Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.*

3. DECREASE Criticism (vs. 3c)

"... in humility consider others better than yourselves."

DEFINITION: Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but rather -- not thinking ***of yourself at all!***

4. DEMONSTRATE Consideration (vs. 4)

Php 2:4 NLT *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

1 Pet 3:7 NLT *In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

5. DEVELOP Christ-likeness (vs. 5)

Php 2:5 NLT *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

Php 2:6-8 NLT *Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.*

(7) Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form,

(8) He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

vs. 6 (Jesus gave up his rights)

vs. 7 (Jesus' attitude (thoughts, before actions) were service)

vs. 8 (Jesus was willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others)

Eph 4:3 NLT *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*

A man wearing a yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black baseball cap stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised in a gesture of joy or praise, with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. The background is a clear blue sky with several blue star-shaped graphics scattered across it. The overall mood is one of happiness and freedom.

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