

Selfless

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 28th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

~Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

- 1) **The Gospel Of Jesus Provides Authentic Transformation**
 - A) Part of the ongoing rejuvenation which the Gospel brings the life of a follower of Christ (Philippians 2:12-13) is life as a Gospel-citizen, engaged in outwardly living an inward ongoing rejuvenation of the soul/heart/mind (1:27-30).
 - B) This is a great measure of Gospel transformation! Do our practices reflect Gospel transformation? Sometimes, we outwardly behave for others, with no inward change. God wants transformed obedience, not just outward behavior!
 - C) Does this mean we only have to be obedient where true heart rejuvenation has taken place? **No!** Clearly, this is not the case! We live disciplined lives (1st Corinthians 9:25-27), which reveal weaknesses, and we work very hard seeking Gospel transformation in submission to God's will.
 - D) This is why "to obey is better than sacrifice" (1st Samuel 15:22). God doesn't just want your "good behavior." God desires an authentic relationship with Him which draws us into transformed lives. This only happens through Jesus and what true Gospel relationships reveal.

2) The Gospel Makes Us Other-Centered People

- A) Having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the Gospel life. The Gospel life is relationship with Jesus. Gospel living means we are more like Jesus, living authentic obedience from relationship with Jesus Christ in the real world.
- B) Jesus actively humbled Himself on behalf of others, placing the needs of others in front of His own (Philippians 2:1-4). This is a profound Gospel truth! Followers of Jesus choose others, even over their most important needs/wants.
- C) Jesus served others with all of His life, so others might truly know God (2:5-8). Life in Christ brings selfless living, where our priorities are transformed away from the world, into unity together for reaching others.

3) The Gospel Moves Us To Other-Centered Actions

- A) Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as an example of other-centered humility in action (John 13:12-17). Following Jesus is not about the action of washing feet, but about an authentic heart of serving others.
- B) While outside of our scope today, this also leads us into loving our enemies, blessing those who bring persecution against the Gospel/Christ, even supplying for the needs of others -- even those who are evil (Romans 12).
- C) Within the church, it is easy to slowly lose contact with the rest of the world. This is why Jesus specifically instructed His followers to remain "in the world" without living "of the world" (John 17:16-19).
- D) The purpose of this, again, was for others who would trust in the Gospel message and enter into Gospel living through a relationship with Jesus Christ (17:20).
- E) Jesus brilliantly examples serving the needs of others in His interactions and teaching (e.g. Luke 10:25-37). He ends this parable perfectly, asking us to "go and do likewise."