

Sunday, September 12, 2021 - "Relationship Matters - Week 1 - Four Keys to Healthy Relationships" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Philippians 1:1-11, Philippians 2:3-4, Philippians 2:20

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

#### Main Ideas

- Our relationships with one another are critical
- This series will teach us how to have better relationships with each other
- Philippians = a letter of friendship
  - To Paul's dear friends from prison
  - It is full of joy and encouragement despite Paul being in chains
- Philippians 1:1-11
- v1: Paul AND Timothy, servants of christ
  - Paul holds his protege at the same level as him (he doesn't place himself above)
  - We need to be wary of rockstar/celebrity leaders in the church
  - Philippians 2:20 "I have no one else like him (Timothy)"
  - Servant = slave..to Christ
    - Belonging to the master, no personal rights, hearing what God says and doing what he says
    - A WAY OF LIFE, not just a saying (Hear and Obey)
    - Not oppressive or punitive, but where the adventure begins
- 4 Keys to healthy relationships
  - 1) Humility
    - Timothy is co worker
    - Slaves to Christ
    - Everything you have is a gift from God
    - Philippians 2:3-4 (consider others better than yourselves)
  - 2) Honor = high respect, great esteem, showing and recognizing value in others
    - See on another (image of God reflected in all people)
    - v3: "I've noticed that you're with me" v6: "I see God working in you" v9: "You are loving people, even more"
  - 3) Encouragement
    - Paul encourages them to stay the course
    - Encouragement is a catalyst for achieving more than you think you can achieve
    - Partnership —> mutual support
  - 4) Prayer
- What can we do to abound more and more in love towards one another?
  - At least 1 time per week pray that God would bring someone from Grace to your mind
  - Pray for that person SPECIFICALLY (not just "bless this person")
  - Write them a note to encourage them and support them
  - We all need to be soon...something profound happens when we pray for one another

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have your relationships been critical in your life and in your journey with God?
2. What do you think it means to have healthy relationships with others?
3. How have you experienced the 4 keys to healthy relationships on your life? What have you learned?
4. How has encouragement been a catalyst for you to achieve more than you thought you could?
5. What would it look like for you to grow in humility and honor in your relationships?
6. How are you being called to be a slave to Christ?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Acts 6 Tues: Acts 7 Wed: Acts 8 Thurs: Acts 9 Fri: Acts 10**

**Songs from the weekend: [Your Great Name - Todd Dulaney] - [Goodness of God - Bethel Music] - [Do It Again - Elevation Worship] - [What a Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship]**