

- B. How will the Spirit of God in us accomplish this work?
- i. Paul takes us to the Gospel to show us how we are to live and then expects that the Spirit of God in us will use the Gospel to move us, to change us, from within into an obedient people who are taking up their cross and following Jesus!
  - ii. When the Gospel makes God known to us, we learn how God relates to others, and that knowing compels us to be transformed in how we relate to others.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How does the cross make God known? In what sense does that *knowing* reconcile us to God?
- Why does our being reconciled to God, and knowing how God reconciled us to Himself, compel us, even require us, to be transformed in how we relate to others?
- What do you think of the statement by Stephen Nichols: *We will have a warped view of the Christian life if we see Scripture as something to be negotiated rather than obeyed.*
- How might Isaiah 58:3-7 speak to you about how you can consider others as more significant than yourself? How you can live as a sacrifice for the benefit of others?
- Why might the message of Philippians 2:3-4 sound very radical in our present culture? Do you think this was very different or much the same as the Philippian culture?
- What do you think of the statement: *Jesus sends us to the Cross to teach us how to live?* How might Philippians 2 reveal this process? How might you go to the Cross to learn how to live? How does the Spirit use the Gospel to transform us?

## The Cross as a Pattern for Serving One Another

Jerry Cisar — July 12, 2015

Text: Philippians 1:27; 2:1-13

### Introduction (1:27)

- A. Broken fellowship with God and each other.
  - i. At the cross where we are reconciled to God we are also reconciled to one another—we are restored and being restored as our brother's keeper.
  - ii. 1 John 4:19-20
- B. *The Gospel leads us to the cross and the first thing the cross of our Lord Jesus does is to make God known to us. In the very act of making Him known it reconciles us to Him. In that moment we learn how God relates to others and that knowing compels us to be transformed in how we relate to others.*

*Living our lives in a manner worthy of the Gospel will transform our relationships into a glorious unity, rooted in a Glorious Savior, and can really happen because of a glorious promise.*

### I. A Glorious Unity (2:1-4)

- A. Paul's Vision for the Local Church (3-4)

i. *“selfish-ambition and empty conceit or boasting.”*

ii. *“The church beneath the cross”* When the church ceases to carry the cross, to suffer for the sake of others, we cease to be the church.

➤ Isaiah 58:3-7

B. So what does this unified thinking look like?

i. It is a new way of thinking – but not just *thinking* as an end in itself, but *thinking* that directs our steps and living – patterned after the cross of Christ.

ii. *“The Law sends us to Christ that we might be justified, Christ sends to the Cross to teach us how to live.”*

a) This is the only place that can bring about a unity of thinking in love for the church.

b) Paul takes us there in the verses that follow.

## II. A Glorious Savior (2:5-11)

A. This glorious unity happens when we transform our thinking to the thinking of the Savior in the Gospel.

B. The thinking or disposition Jesus had:

i. v6 Jesus wasn't holding by force onto His power and privilege, when it suited Him best. He willingly let go.

ii. v7 Made Himself nothing; taking the nature of a servant

iii. v8 The cross is the place that defines the thinking that the believer is to have.

iv. vv9-11 How could Christ think this way? How is it that he submitted to the Father's will?

➤ Faith! (1 Peter 2:23)

➤ He was looking forward to that time when God would punish and reward.

b) How can we think this way? We can't think or live this way apart from faith.

➤ Ephesians 6:7-8; Revelation 22:12

C. *Humility is necessary for the church to be the church!*

## III. A Glorious Promise (2:12-13)

A. How does Paul have confidence that we are able to obey such a high calling?

i. It is based on a promise, but not just a promise (13).

a) Ezekiel 11:19-20

b) Ezekiel 36:26-27

c) Jeremiah 24:7

d) Deuteronomy 30:6.

ii. This great promise is none other than the promise of the New Covenant, the Promise of the coming Holy Spirit who will live in us and transform our hearts.