

"The Church: A Faithful Gospel Witness"

Ryan Carver - October 18, 2020

Text: Acts 2:42, Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction (Acts 2:42)

1. Remembering Our Shared Life (Philippians 2:1-2)

The Greek word for “fellowship”, Koinonia, expresses a shared-life with other believers - a life that we also share with God the Father and God the Son. It’s a relationship, it’s a supernatural union.

We have a lot in common...

We are in Christ!

God loves us.

We have the same Spirit in us.

We have all been shown compassion...even when we didn’t deserve it.

These truths go deep. They transform us from the inside out.

2. Living Our Shared Life (Philippians 2:1-4)

Koinonia is a relationship, and it’s a participation in that relationship.

Since you're united in Christ, then...

Since you’ve received God’s love then...

Since you’ve received comfort from the Holy Spirit...

Since you’ve experienced God’s compassion...

Paul exhorts the Phillipians to make his joy complete by remembering what they have received in Christ and then in turn, sharing with others what has so graciously been given to them.

3. Looking to Jesus’ Shared Life (Philippians 2:5-11)

In v5, Paul urges us to all think like Jesus together and it is by God’s supernatural work and design that we actually will!

He didn’t walk this earth saying I deserve this and I should have these blessings and these rights, and I should be treated this way. He doesn't go after any of that. Instead, He's willing to let go of all of that. He then empties himself, which means he poured out his life.

Imagine Jesus, the eternal Son of God stepping into our world (our muck and mess of a world) and he doesn’t only step into our world, he lives amongst us.

“He veiled his deity, but he did not void his deity.” -A.W. Tozer

We can look to the kind of servant Jesus became.

Jesus humbled himself and he became obedient to the Father, he did what the Father asked him to do.

Christ humbles himself and then God exalts him! Every voice will call Jesus Lord.

Jesus is Lord. He reigns over all, he needs nothing...and yet he cares about us. So much that he would give his life for us.

We can live the life that Christ lived as he lives in and through us. This can be what we are known for...

- Our unity, our sacrificial participation in each other's lives, our shared life.

Questions for Community Groups

1. In what ways have you commonly seen “fellowship” defined that may have not been the full picture of the “shared life” we see in Acts 2 and Phillipians 2?
2. Take some time to remember and reflect on “what you have received in Christ. What does Paul say we have received (Phillipians 2:1)? In what ways does this unite us and dismantle division? How is this especially relevant for us today?
3. What has God done for us and how does that compel us to give what we have recieved? What might cause us to not give what we have received and how can we fight against that?
4. As we look to Jesus’ life and see the kind of servant he was, how does this inform our lives? Where is God leading you to live sacrificially?
5. In what ways have you already participated in “shared life” together? In what ways can you participate in “shared life” together, now?