

Sunday, July 30, 2017 - "I-Will B: The Difference" - Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: Philippians 2:1-11

- 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

- We have all been created with unique talents and gifts to be used for God's mission for us
- Our uniqueness within community can be a powerful thing
- Quotables from the past couple of weeks
 - Doug: "We have been saved to serve"
 - Service is rooted on our worship
 - What God wants, we are here to serve Him
 - Norflette: "In man's system servanthood as about reducing the person while in God's system it's about enlarging us"
- In Philippians 2 Paul calls us to be of the SAME MIND and the SAME LOVE
 - The picture is of harmonious music
 - We are called to be rooted in the same kind of love
- The key to unity (same mind, same love) is HUMILITY
 - v3 Nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit
 - You can't be full of yourself AND full of the Spirit
 - As John the Baptist said: "I must decrease, He must increase"
- The Word (Word of God), the work (mission), and the way (the manner in which we carry out the mission) (picture a triangle with each of these at a point)
 - We are to be submitted to the word of God and actively involved in the work or the mission
 - But sometimes we don't pay enough attention to the way
- "In humility count others more significant than yourself" (THIS IS THE WAY)
 - We need to recognize the significance of others
 - Knowing our identity BUT also knowing the identity of others
 - Saying, "I'm going to serve them so they know who they are"
 - This is what serving is all about
- The example of Jesus: He chose to come as a servant when he had a right to a kingdom
 - Gave up his throne But also came through a persecuted and relatively small people
 - Jesus was showing us what TRUE HUMANITY looked like (this is what it is really like to be human).
- We become what we behold
 - Our view of Jesus is important
 - The example He gave as a servant
 - Serving → honoring our brother or sister
 - Service has a way of opening us up to the thing or the will that God has for us

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

1. Give an example of a time you had the same mind and the same love as someone else? What was it like?
2. Being as practical as you can, what does humility look like for you? Before God? Before others?
3. Can you think of a time when someone counted you as more significant than them? How did it make you feel? What did you learn about them or yourself or God?
4. How is God calling you to grow in counting others as more significant than yourself?
5. How is God moving in you to serve Him and others over the past few weeks?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

Mon: Proverbs 20 Tues: Proverbs 21 Wed: Proverbs 22 Thurs: Proverbs 23 Fri: Proverbs 24

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**