

July 22, 2018

## Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions

### Today's Sermon: "Uncivil"

Have you observed any changes in the patterns of social interaction in our society over the last 5, 10, or 20 years? What do you think accounts for those?

Do you think those patterns at work in our society seep into the ways that we as believers relate to each other in the Church? How does that happen?

If you have been attending King Street Church for awhile, how do you think we are doing as a group of believers called to relate to each other in love? How can we pursue improvement?

One of the greatest calls to love each other within the church comes from Philippians chapter 2:6-11. Possibly one of the earliest creeds of the church, and referred to as a "Christ Hymn," Paul uses it to point to the example of Jesus and urges believers to regard each other with the same attitude that Christ had.

Read Philippians 2:1 - 11.

- Paul connects the beginning of chapter 2 with what came before it by using the word, "Therefore." How do the closing thoughts of chapter 1 set the stage for chapter 2?
- On what basis does Paul make his appeal in verses 1 and 2?
- What description or explanation of humility does Paul use in verses 3 and 4?
- How well do we "value others above ourselves" in the church today? Share some examples that you have seen of where we do that well and where we don't.
  
- What is the important assertion about the identity of Christ that Paul makes in verse 6?
- What is the tremendous contrast drawn between the positions of Christ seen in verses 6 through 8?
- **\*\* Key question: What is the important lesson about our actions that Paul is trying to drive home in these verses? What is our "mindset" supposed to be? (verse 5)**
- If Christ had not chosen to lay aside his glory and his "rights" as the Son of God in heaven, where would we be?
- Verses 9 -11 describe the exaltation of Christ following his humiliation and suffering. If we humble ourselves as Christ did, do you think that ultimately there will be some sort of reward in that?

Read Ephesians 4:29 - 5:2

- What do you think would be included in the definition of "unwholesome talk?" in verse 29? How often do you reflect on and evaluate your speech by the standard

that Paul lays out here? Practically, how can we remind ourselves of this more often?

- Why is verse 30 positioned as it is between the thoughts of verses 29 and 31?
- What is the gold standard of relating to each other that Paul highlights again in verses 32 through 5:2? (Hopefully you see the recurrent theme here.)

If we more and more related to each other according to the principles that we have looked at today, would it change the way that the outside world views The Church? Our church?