

- 1 **Joy in Spite of People**
Text: Phil. 2:5ff
02/23/11
- 2 **The secret to...**
 - ...joy in spite of people is a submissive mind.
- 3 **Just as...**
 - ...circumstances can rob us of our joy, people can also rob us of our joy.
- 4 **Paul's problem...**
 - ...in chapter 1 was his imprisonment. He was on death row and his execution was imminent.
- 5 **He was determined...**
 - ...however, not to allow his circumstances to rob him of his joy. He chose a different focus.
- 6 **Paul's focus in...**
 - ...chapter 1 was not his trouble but rather the advancement of the gospel.
- 7 **Paul's single-**
 - ...minded focus is summed up in Philippians 1:21; "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."
- 8 **The Message from Chapter 1**
 - If you want to have joy in spite of your circumstances, put Christ first.
- 9 **He ends chapter 1...**
 - ...by saying, "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him but to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict you saw in me..."
- 10 **In other words...**
 - ...we as believers are not exempt from trouble... trouble is beyond our control. In fact, our circumstance are God-ordained.
- 11 **Paul's focus in...**
 - ... chapter 2 is on another joy stealer...people. In Philippians 1:15-17, he identifies the people who have become the thorns in his side.
- 12 **He then begins...**
 - ...chapter 2 by saying, "since there is encouragement in Christ, and since love gives consolation, and since there is fellowship in the Spirit, since there is affection and compassion..."
- 13 **...Complete my joy....**
 - ...by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, and intent on one purpose.
- 14 **Four Joy-sustaining Realities**
 - 1) We receive encouragement from our connection with Christ
 - 2) We receive comfort from His love
 - 3) We are in fellowship with His Spirit
 - 4) We receive tenderness and compassion from Him
- 15 **The Results**

- 1) Same mind
- 2) Same love
- 3) Same spirit
- 4) Same purpose

16 **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
- Romans 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus
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17 **The key Verse**

- "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves." (Phil. 2:3)

18 **Unity is maintained...**

- ...by doing nothing out of selfish ambition or for empty glory
- ...but in humility, consider others as more important than yourself

19 **Unity Keys**

- Avoid a desire for personal praise and the selfish ambition that accompanies it
- Cultivate an attitude of humility and be concerned for the interest of other

20 **A Submissive Mind**

- ...does not mean that the believer is a doormat or at the beck and call of others. Submission is more than simply yielding.

21 **When a believer...**

- ...yields, he generally does so only after a struggle and he only surrenders his will.

22 **When a believer...**

- ...submits, he does so without a struggle and he not only surrenders his will, he surrenders himself.

23 **The Lost Arm Illustration**

- A chaplain was speaking to a soldier on a cot in a hospital.
- "You have lost an arm in the great cause," he said.
- "No," said the soldier with a smile. "I didn't lose it--I gave it."
- In that same way, Jesus did not lose His life. He gave it purposefully.

24 **You can have...**

- ...joy in spite of people when your mind is set on others rather than on self.

25 **You can have...**

- ...joy in spite of people when your mind is set on servicing rather than on being served

26 **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

- "What lies behinds us and what lies before us pales in comparison to what lies within us"

27 **Attitude says...**

- ...I cannot control the facts but I can control my feelings.

28  **Jean Nicolas Grou**

■ "The chief pang of most trials is not so much the actual suffering as our own spirit of resistance to it."

■

29  **You can have...**

■ ...joy in spite of people when your mind is set on sacrifice instead of suffering. (2:5ff)

30  **The Message from Chapter 2**

■ If you want to have joy in spite of people, put others first.