

Who Do You Want To Be?: Part 2- Divorce Yourself
Philippians 2:3-5

I. ME

A. Welcome / Online / For Salem

II. WE

A. Who do you want to be?

B. Can be an uncomfortable question b/c we want to get life right and we know we're missing something... defensive?

1. We know there is a gap between who we want to be and who we are.
2. Especially if we bring up relationships.

C. We know... **Happy relationships create a happy life**

1. Happiest memories are mostly about enjoying time with other people
2. **Alone**- "What's the point if there's no one here to enjoy it with?"
3. Deepest regrets have to do with how you treated someone.

D. Problem is... being around people is hard.

1. It's so easy to mess things up.
2. So easy to say the wrong thing, do the wrong thing, hurt feelings, cause misunderstandings.
3. Nobody ever says... This year I want to be known for being someone who is in conflict in all of my relationships.
4. Someone who hurts the people closest to me the most.
5. But too often that's who we've become.

E. We can say we want to be different.

1. We can say we want more harmony, enjoyment, purpose in our relationships
2. We say want to be known for being a good friend, spouse, sibling.
3. But is that what we are actually known for by the people that know us best?
4. How do you know who you really are? What's your proof?

F. **The proof of who we are is how we treat people.**

III. GOD (Phil. 2:3-5)

A. Paul

1. Quick background
2. Why there's a gap between who we want to be and who we are in our relationships

B. V. 3a (conceit)

1. **Vain conceit**= empty pride
2. Makes you think of that person you aren't getting along with right now, right?
 - a. Stubborn, Arrogant, Refusing to listen
 - b. Only concerned about themselves and what they want
3. Let's look back on your last argument/conflict?
4. You wanted to win too right?

5. Why?
 - a. You knew better and they were wrong
 - b. So you pushed back
 - c. You didn't want them to think they won.
 - d. You didn't want to lose.
6. What where you FOR in that argument?
 - a. Your point of view or theirs?
 - b. You or them?
7. Also... Why do we get emotional during these times?
 - a. Wouldn't be easier/more productive calmly discussing things... but it gets so heated... why?
 - b. B/c our pride is at stake...

8. Me and kids disrespecting.

- a. SO angry... who do you think you are?
 - b. No kid is going to talk to me that way
 - c. What if they talk to other people this way... what will they think of my parenting?
 - d. Instead of listening and calmly figuring things out I get MAD... why?
9. We have conflict b/c we have empty pride

10. We have conflict b/c we're lovingly devoted to ourselves

11. So what's the cure... you're gonna love this.

C. V. 3b

1. **Humility**- Modest, realistic opinion, estimation of yourself. Not proud or arrogant.
2. Not being devoted to yourself b/c you know you're not better than anyone else.
3. Your allegiance is not to you and what you want...
4. It's like divorcing yourself.
5. **Humility creates relationships you can be proud of.**
6. How do we become humble... what's that look like?
7. So easy... it's why everyone does it and there's no conflict

D. V. 4

1. You're no longer looking out for yourself... you've divorced yourself. Your not your concern anymore.
2. **"Looking to** the interests of others"- SCOPING OUT.
3. Being actively on the lookout for what is best for someone else.
4. Being FOR them
 - a. FOR- in favor of, on the side of, in the interest of.
5. That's love.
6. It's powerful. It's strong. It's active. It's selfless.
7. **Love is actively seeking what is good for someone else.**

IV. YOU

- A. Practical ways to be this kind of person?
- B. **Choose to make deference your preference.**
 - 1. Defer- yield/acquiesce.
 - 2. Give them the same benefit of a doubt you give yourself.
 - 3. Give deference, consideration, thoughtfulness to their point of view... maybe you aren't seeing all the facts.
 - 4. What do THEY need? What are they actually fighting for?
 - 5. **MY KIDS**... usually my attention.
- C. When things get difficult how do you know what to do?
 - 1. Simple... but not easy
 - 2. **Ask what does love look like?**
 - a. What does being FOR them look like?
 - b. What does actively seeking their good look like?
- D. Whether you're a JF or not... this will make your relationships and life better.
 - 1. But if you're not a JF you don't have to do any of it.
 - 2. If you are a JF there's more to this.

E. Rebuttals

- 1. See... All of this sounds good... until you get in a room or car with other people.
- 2. B/c then they give you good reasons to say, "Yeah but..."
- 3. Yeah but... they are being a stubborn jerk
- 4. Yeah but they expect me to do all the work
- 5. Yeah but what if they walk all over me.
- 6. That's fair... but for a JF... the motivation and the obligation is not the other person.

F. V. 5

- 1. A JF's motivation making deference their preference and loving others is Jesus'.
- 2. **God himself put our needs above himself.**
- 3. God. Humbled himself to live with us.
- 4. Lived in one of the worst time periods
- 5. Died in one of the worst ways... for us.
- 6. And rose conquering death so that we can have new life through him
- 7. The one who had every right to depend respect, his preferences, to argue that he was right... chose to humble himself for our good.
- 8. That's a JF's motivation.
- 9. But wait there's more.

G. John 13:34-35

1. **How Christians treat people is proof of whom they are following.**
 2. If someone who called themselves a Xian treated you poorly
 3. It's b/c they might have known about Jesus but they weren't following him.
 4. B/c when someone is truly following Jesus they are relying on His love to love others through them.
- H. To extinguish and repair any conflict and relationship someone has to go first
1. Someone has to humble themselves and stop fighting for their point of view / rights
 2. Someone has to be willing to see the other side
 3. Some has to take that first step of seeking peace...
 4. If you are a JF... you get to prove whom you follow by going first.
5. **Jesus-Followers go first.**

V. WE

- A. Who do you want to be?
 - B. Constantly in conflict? Unable to enjoy strong, life-giving relationships?
 - C. What would it be like to have grown up in a family where each member had been FOR the other members?
 - D. To have your kids grow up in a family where they see their parents choose to go first in deferring to the others?
 1. To know the story of Jesus through the example of their parent's humility and love?
 - E. Imagine if you could take yourself out the petty arguments... you didn't have to worry about winning b/c you were more concerned about deferring first?
 - F. What if the people around you knew that you were actively seeking their good?
 - G. That's the life Jesus gives
 - H. True strength. True Love. True relationships.
- E. We want to be better...
- F. We want to be known for being FOR people
- G. So... Choose to divorce yourself
- H. **B/c... The life you actually want is not about you.**