

Working out Our Salvation
Philippians 2:12-18

Our calling as a church is to help people come to faith in Christ and experience God in all of life. This is the commission that Jesus gave His disciples, and us, in some of his last words before He returned to the Father's right hand (Matt. 28:18-20). If we are going to be able to live out this mission effectively and powerfully we must walk together in unity as a church. Unity is not just a nice bonus; it is vital to our mission! This is Paul's focus and concern in the passage that we are looking at today.

Opening Discussion: Before you were a believer, what church, group of believers, or individual caught your attention? Why?

Read Philippians 2:12-18

1. What Paul says in this passage flows from what he has just talk about (i.e. "So then"). How would you summarize what he has just talked about?

2. What are the commands in this passage?

3. What does it mean to "work out your salvation" (v. 12)?

4. What is God part and what is our part in working out our salvation (v. 13)?

5. How do we see Paul's concern for unity in this passage?

6. What does Paul mean by appearing as lights in the world?

Brian said:

Faith is a unique church. We have all sorts of diversity – educational, socio-economic, theological, political, etc. Do we care about our unity, and maintaining our ability to shine as lights in a world desperate for Christ, more than we care about our theological, political, educational differences? I'm not saying that we shouldn't talk about our differences. I'm not saying they are not important. But what I am saying is that we need to be very careful to not let these differences disrupt our unity. I would appeal to you to seek God regarding this. Are you doing anything that is disruptive to our unity for which Jesus prayed? Are you carrying heart attitudes or speaking in ways that threaten our unity? If God shows you any of this, I would encourage you to confess it and ask for God's grace to walk and speak in a different way.

7. What is your response to what Brian says here? Any thoughts about where you need to grow in this?

8. What do you sense is the main take-away for you from this study?