

Indestructible Joy – Week #3

Philippians 1:27-2:4 = Maintaining a Joy Filled Life and Church

1. Pastor Brent told a story of finding an amazing deal of something on sale. (a sweater worth \$90 on sale for \$4). What is your story of finding an amazing deal?
2. Operating in the background of this text (Phil.1:27-2:4) is “the high cost of discipleship that never goes on sale”
 - a. How does Jesus define the high cost of discipleship? (Lk.9:23-25 & Lk.14:25-33)
 - b. How does Paul exemplify this cost of discipleship in the book of Philippians?
 - c. How do the Philippians exemplify this cost of discipleship in 2 Cor.8:1-5?

The “High Cost of discipleship” in this passage involves “Suffering” & “Unity”. We need to **Expect** prideful hostility from outside of the faith & **Protect** against prideful hostility within the faith.

Expect prideful hostility from outside the faith – Suffering

3. Reflect on Paul’s pre-conversion state and post-conversion state. What experience does he have with prideful hostility? (1 Tim.1:13, Acts 7:58, 8:3, 9:1, 1 Thess.2:2, Acts 16:22-23)
4. How does the background of the “fish symbol” help us understand what life was like for early New Testament believers?
5. Read John 15:18 & 2Tim.3:12 – How can the church sometimes water down this message? Have you or someone you’ve known ever experienced this cost of discipleship? Explain.
6. Where does Paul see the Joy in suffering? (Phil.1:29 & 3:10)
7. What does “the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings” mean? Have you ever experienced this intimacy with Jesus as you experienced the same difficulty that Jesus experienced? Explain

Protect against prideful hostility within the faith - Unity

8. What is the hardest thing about applying Phil.1:1-4?
9. How does the research of John Gottman (Masters & Disasters) confirm what the bible says is best about relationships?
10. Phil.1:27 – What does it mean to live in a manner worthy of the gospel?
11. Pastor Brent closed by talking about his mission’s trip to South Asia last year. What can we learn from the “South Asian” church that helps us apply this passage?