



Big Idea: Joy begins with Christlike selflessness.

-- v. 1-2 – *How can our joy together be made complete?*

-- v. 3a – "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit..."

-- Literally, *"Nothing according to rivalry or conceit."*

-- *"...selfish ambition..."* – *evriqei, a* – a desire to put oneself forward in an aggressive, me-first mentality, such as in "gutter politics"

-- *"...vain conceit..."* – *kenodoxi, a* – "empty glory" – This word describes the pursuit of self-exaltation.

-- Conceit is always empty glory because its glory cannot last.

-- In everything we do, our **Motivation** matters. Every word or deed motivated by self does not belong in the church.

-- v. 3b – "...but in humility consider others better than yourselves..."

-- Three Ways to Consider Others Better than Yourself:

1.) Realize that you are the sinner you know.

-- As far as first-hand information is concerned, each of us is the worst sinner he/she knows (1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Timothy 1:15-16).

2.) Assume the best **Motives** in others; check for the worst in yourself (Matthew 7:2-5).

-- When you get the urge to criticize someone, start with yourself; that is usually as far as you will get.

3.) Always treat others as an **End**, never as a **Means** (Galatians 6:10).

-- Never treat anyone as a means to some agenda. Rather treat every agenda as a means to minister to people.

-- v. 4 – "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

-- Authentic Christian living always has **Others** in view.

-- Two Ways to Look to the Interests of Others (Phil. 1:25-26)

1.) Live to inspire in others **Progress** in Christ.

2.) Live to inspire in others **Joy** in Christ.

-- It is impossible to look fully to the interests of others without pointing them to Christ.

-- v. 5-11 – The Selflessness of Christ

-- v. 5 – For the believer in Christ, the of the cross go far beyond salvation.

-- v. 6-7a – Because Jesus willingly and gladly took a low position, so should we (Romans 12:16).

-- v. 7b – Because Christ became a servant, so we must serve each other (Matthew 20:26-28).

-- v. 7c – Because Jesus took human form, **Human Beings** ought to be the priority of our ministries (Matthew 22:36-39).

-- v. 8a – Even as Jesus became like us to save us, so we are called to **Identify** with those God is saving through us.

-- This does not mean that we follow anyone into sin, but that we gladly humble ourselves and accommodate ourselves to others so that we might win them to Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

-- v. 8b – Because Jesus sacrificed himself completely for us, so we should give our lives for others (1 John 3:16).

-- v. 9-11 – Even as the Christ’s glory stems from His selflessness, so too our joy begins with *Humility* (1 Peter 5:5, Luke 18:14).

Conclusion

- Selfish ambition and vain conceit are the enemies of *Joy*.
- Christlike humility and active selflessness pave the pathway of abundant life in Christ.