



Live your life for others so that they will give their all for Christ.

- Success for Paul meant *Sanctification* in others (v. 12, 16).
  - Paul's eternal joy was inextricably connected to the spiritual transformation of others (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
- Meaningful ministry is measured by *Changed* lives.
  - Paul's boast before the Lord was believers who are all in for Christ.
  - Paul's lament before the Lord was people who don't change.

### 1.) Living for Christ in others demands *Sacrifice* (v. 17a).

- v. 17a – "...but even if I am being poured out like a drink offering..."
  - The drink offering was the last stage of the sacrifice and would act as a sort of capstone to it.
  - The drink offering metaphor refers to Paul's impending martyrdom (2 Timothy 4:6-7).
  - Paul delighted to sacrifice Himself for the growth of others in Christ.

### 2.) Living for Christ in others demands *Selflessness* (v. 17b).

- v. 17b – "...on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith..."
  - Paul viewed the service of the Philippian church as the main sacrifice and his own efforts as a sort of finishing touch.
  - Paul understood every sacrifice he made as a means to amplify Christ in the lives of others.
- More than credit *From* others, Paul desired Christ *In* others.
  - Paul regarded His whole life as a calling to bring glory to God by building up others in Christ.

- Paul was willing to suffer martyrdom, if thereby he could be most useful to God's people (John 15:13).

### 3.) Living for Christ in others develops *Unity* (v. 17a-b).

- Paul viewed both his service and that of the Philippian church as one unified sacrifice.
- **Meaningful ministry is a team sport.**
  - Together we are called to offer ourselves to God as one unified body of believers.
  - Obeying our calling in Christ means honoring our connection to each other.

### 4.) Living for Christ in others develops *Joy* (v. 17c-18).

- v. 17c-18 – "...I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me..."
- **Sacrificial, selfless love for others is the secret to true joy.**
  - John 15:11-13 – Notice: Jesus, the maker of joy, promises that we can have *His* complete joy in us.
  - According to the Lord's own words, the selfless love we give to others returns to us as joy.
- **Jesus' joy is found in loving others as He has loved us (Hebrews 12:2).**
  - We shouldn't be surprised that selfless, sacrificial service to others inspires true joy. That's how Jesus expressed His.
  - True joy is found in the kind of love that drove Christ to the cross.

## Application

- **Two Options for Seeking Joy:**
  - Option #1 – Continue to pursue fulfillment and joy in any number of worldly ways.
  - Option #2 – Believe Scripture and pursue joy in Christ through selfless, sacrificial service to *Others*.
- **Two Ways to Serve in the Church:**
  - Option #1 – Serve for the sake of serving.
  - Option #2 – Serve for the sake of Christ in *Others*.

- The love of Christ that brings true joy is not just about doing kind things for others, but about building them up in Christ.
- Live your life for others so that they will give their all for Christ.