

Discovery Group - Community Foundations

(7) *Value the Family*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: **Philippians 1:20 - 2:24**

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How can we today follow the examples of Paul and Timothy in loving the people of God? What might this cost us?
- What does the example of Jesus teach us about this?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Colossians 1:24-29

Value the Family

In this passage, we see an extraordinary picture of what it means to value the family of God. Actually, we see several. First, there is Paul. His concern for the body of believers is such that, though he is convinced that it would be much better for him personally to be executed (he is in prison awaiting trial) and thus be with Jesus, he is confident that he will live for the sake of the church. He later describes himself as “being poured out like a drink offering” (2:17). And then there is Paul’s apprentice, Timothy. Unlike all the others, he has genuine concern for the church in Philippi, proving that he truly cares about the interests of Jesus (2:19-23). Finally, of course, is Jesus Himself. He gave up every right and advantage of heaven for the sake of people, and gave His life in a cruel death for our sake.

Paul and Timothy demonstrate in their own lives how we as God’s people are to live in response to Jesus’ love and sacrifice. We are to love His people above our own apparent well-being and comfort. We are to seek the good of God’s people, even to our own harm if necessary. How do we do so?

To begin, we are to labor with all we have for unity - to be of one mind and one faith and one purpose, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel. To that end, we are to be radically humble (even to the point of valuing others above ourselves). We are to utterly lay aside all personal ambition - and pick up in its place a passionate concern for the family of believers.

We are to surrender our rights and privileges for the sake of our brothers and sisters, even as Jesus did. We are to be obedient without grumbling, and to fearfully work out our salvation *together* - not thinking that even this is an individual pursuit.

Our culture - even our ‘Christian’ culture - pulls us away from this with desperate force. We are taught to value looking after ourselves. Pursuing our career and education and happiness first - and then giving the church what we have left-over. The scriptures lead us in a radically different direction. What are we going to do?