



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—How to Get Along with People (Phil 2:1-11)**

*Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.*

1. How would you describe the attitude that Jesus had? On a scale of 1-10 (10 the closest) how close is your attitude to His?
2. Go around the room. Of the 5 areas (competition, conceit, criticism, lack of consideration, control) that keep us from having Christ's attitude, which do you struggle with the most?
3. Talk about why do people "compete" with each other, and how it relates to "conceit". How can this be overcome?
4. How does the idea of "considering the interests of others" help us be less critical and controlling? What would it take for each of us to look out for the interests of others?
5. In thinking about our part in growth (humility, introspection, finding growth contexts, our heart, risking for growth) which is a new idea for you? How could you work on that this week?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

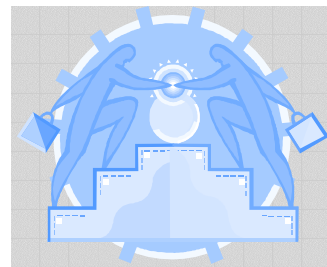
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

**Locations, Times, Descriptions**

9:00

10:45



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS**  
**- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Hixson-Sturgill-Bower
Rm 112	Small Group Leaders Training	Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims-Fendley	Rm 201	20s—Jones
Rm 202	Welcome Group—Hey-Lux	Rm 202	30s—Miller-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles—Franklin	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 204	Blessings in Disguise	Rm 204	Making Peace With Your Past
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 206		Rm 206	Engaged/Newly Married
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	20s—Alexy
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Hubbard-Anderson- Robertson
		Gym-3rd fl	College Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins

March 21, 2004

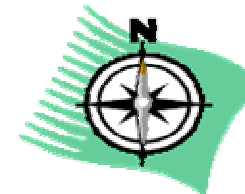
**Enjoy the Rest of Your Life**

*Discover principles for happy living from the book of Philippians*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**You Can't Get There from Here**

**A preview of Philippians 2:12-13**



Volume 2, Issue 33

March 21, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

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Sometimes you get so lost when you're driving that you feel like you simply can't get from where you are to where you want to be. Living the Christian life feels that way sometimes, too. We know there is so much more to life because Christ promised the abundant life, but no matter how many ways we try to get there, it just doesn't seem possible. This week's study provides the foundational principles for living a joyful life, regardless of the circumstances. It is an unusual study because it only encompasses

2 verses: Phil 2:12-13. But these verses are loaded with importance, built around 2 basic ideas. We "work out" in our Christian life what God has first "worked in" us. In other words the successful life is a partnership between God and us. He constantly works in His children to lead us to choose His will, and then to do it—which in turn pleases Him. But, and this is vitally important, we are responsible to choose to follow His will, and to carry it out. These 2 verses give us the context for that obedience—God's love and His lead—as



**The secret of happiness is found in Christ!**

well as the motivation for that obedience—His pleasure and our ultimate answerability to Him. When we understand that He works in us, and that we, too, are responsible, with His help, to work it out, then we will live in joy.

**The Loneliest Number (Phil 1:27-2:11)**

**The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

As the musical group "Three Dog Night" used to sing, "one is the loneliest number that you'll know". If you are looking for joy, it won't be found by yourself; God has wired us up so that we need others for deep, inner happiness, that thing we call joy. Unfortunately, when we get together conflict often develops, and the joy we find in relationships vanishes. So, unity is also necessary for us to have that joy. Paul addressed this issue with the Philippians. He wanted them to act in a manner "worthy" of the gospel of Christ, and he explained what he meant by saying he looked for them to stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together. The "worthy" walk of believers thus is the walk of unity; and when we walk this way we are able to stand firm in the face of our opponents. When we do stand firm in unity we signal the watching world that our side will win (our salvation), resulting ultimately in

their destruction. However, this very conflict we have with the outside world—our suffering and persecution—often leads to our disunity. The reason for this is that inner emotional turmoil, caused by fear of persecution, or by the pain of suffering, many times will cause us to be self-absorbed. This in turn may cause us to be in conflict with those around us, even though it's not their fault. It is always wise to look first inside of ourselves when we are at odds with others, since the root of the disturbance may be our emotions. In fact, dealing with this is a major life issue since it is certain that we will have suffering, and even persecution, if we live faithfully for Jesus. As the apostles said in Acts 14:22 "it is through many tribulations that we must enter the kingdom of God". Sometimes we respond gladly to our suffering for the cause of Christ, but because of our humanness, our reaction may sometimes be fear, anger or

bitterness over real or threatened pain. So, we must constantly be on guard against such emotional reactions that lead to disunity (this is true in all of our relationships—marriage, family, friends, church, work, etc). One of the ways we can guard against this is by making true unity one of our main goals. In Philippians 2:2 Paul defined this unity for us. It is one in which we first have the same mind, meaning we are all on the same page about what's important. We may not agree on every little thing, but we must think the same way about priorities. Not only that, our unity is expressed when we are committed to an equal love for one another. Love, in its purest form, is a choice to do what is best for the person we love. When we treat everyone like this, unity easily occurs. Paul also tells us that unity must be in spirit, not just an outward show. This guarantees that we will do

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Philippians 1:27-2:11 (continued from pg 1)

the things that keep us unified. Finally, we must be united in purpose—we must all be committed to advancing the faith of the gospel. When we have a mutual mission, it is natural to work as one. The result of this unity is joy—for us, but also for those who are our spiritual parents (including God). The reason is that genuine unity provides evidence that the Spirit of God is truly at work inside of us, that our faith is genuine. This, in turn, pleases those who have led us to Christ and helped us mature in the faith. The basis for this unity is also fourfold. First, the fact that we have encouragement to unity in Christ, both by His example and His words, should lead us to strive for unity. Secondly, the love that arises from relationships that are unified consoles us, and brings us comfort, and this should make us want to settle for nothing less. And then, we all have the same Holy Spirit with whom we fellowship; so when we drink from this same well we should be able to have fellowship with each other (see 1 John 1:3). Lastly, since we have deep affection and compassion inside of us that comes from “Christ in us”, we should draw upon it; this, too, will lead to unity. To do this, though, we must forsake self-absorption and pride. These

mindsets are barriers to the attitude of humility required for unity. Humility means to thoughtfully place others’ needs above ours, refusing to think merely about our own interests. This was the attitude that Jesus had; He refused to hold onto His heavenly equality with His Father, giving up His divine privileges to come to earth for us. He completely submitted Himself to His Father for our sake—and descended into greatness. Emptying Himself of His rights as God (but not of His divine nature), He first took the form of a servant, and allowed Himself to become a man trapped in human flesh. He then humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, and submitting even to the scandalous death



He completely submitted Himself to His Father for our sake—and descended into greatness.

of a cross. He descended from the highest peak of Godhood to the lowest depth of humanity, allowing all who believe to become friends with God. As a result His Father highly exalted Him—giving Him the name, “Son of God with power”, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). Consequently, one day every knee will bow to Him—either in faith and love, or in fear of judgment, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Jesus’ example of humility shows us how to accomplish unity. If we will just place one another’s needs above our own and devote ourselves to serving each other, we will find ourselves becoming one. We must recognize attitudes of self-interest, pride, and emotional reactions to real or perceived pain or loss, as impediments to this unity. We must also acknowledge that we have the resources necessary to achieve this unity—Christ’s encouragement, love, the fellowship of the Spirit and Christ’s affection and compassion. With these in hand we must strive for genuine unity of mind, spirit, heart and purpose. The result of this will be that we will experience the full joy of our relationships (as well as bring joy to our spiritual parents) as we walk together as one.

### Study Questions for Philippians 2:12-13

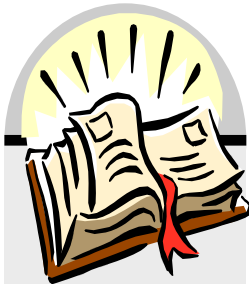
*In these 2 verses we learn the foundational principles for experiencing the abundant life.*

12) “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling 13) for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

1. Look at these 2 verses. What 4 words form the basic command that Paul gives (v12)? Does this imply salvation is an event, or a process (or both)? How do you think most people view it?

2. How does Paul describe the Philippians in these verses (v12)? Why is the acceptance of this description vital for those who are going to “work out their salvation” (see Ephesians 3:17-19)?

3. “So then” looks back to Jesus’ example of obedience and submission to His Father’s will. Why should His example motivate us to “work out” our salvation?



“When we have a mutual mission, it is natural to work as one.”

4. What do you think Paul was trying to get across when he said “not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence”? Why do some Christians obey? What is the correct approach to obedience?

5. Paul says we should work out our salvation with “fear and trembling”? Look up these verses to understand better what he means—Psalm 2:11-12; Proverbs 1:7; 1 John 4:18; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Peter 1:17-19; Philippians 2:13. How do you feel about this?

6. Summarize the human side of salvation from Philippians 2:12—its context, our responsibility, our motive and our attitude.

7. According to Philippians 2:13 what is the basis for us to work out our salvation? How does this give us hope when things don’t seem to be going well?

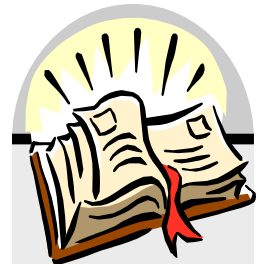
8. From v13, in what sphere of our lives does God work to accomplish His will? How should we apply this?

9. What is the first thing that God does to accomplish His will in us? Why is this so necessary? How do you recognize this aspect of His work in your life?

10. According to v13 who should get the credit for what we actually do for God in our lives? How do you envision this happening in your life (see Galatians 5:16-18)?

11. For what purpose does God lead us both to “will” (choose) and to “do” (act)? Why should this make us want to first choose, and then to do, His will (see also 2 Corinthians 5:9)?

12. Based on this study, what is the daily process by which we please God, and therefore walk in joy? What are some specific actions you could take to get into and stay in this process?



#### Memory Verse

“...work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you....”

Philippians 2:12-13