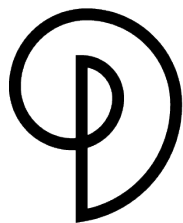
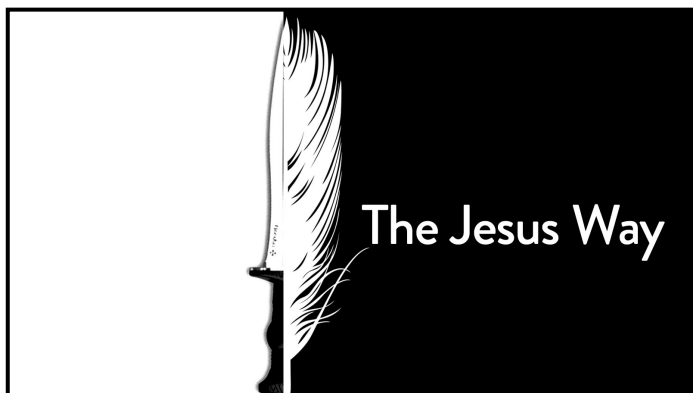


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



The Jesus Way | Unity

June 8 & 9, 2024

Paul teaches about unity in most of his letters and admonishes churches that choose doctrine over Christ. Our baptism, our adoption, is into Christ. It is NOT into particular leadership that tells us what we want to hear. Unity is possible only if we see Jesus Christ in one another. Anything else causes discord.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Apostle Paul was trying to do three very difficult things. One: Convert very religious Jewish people to put their faith in the Resurrected Jesus for salvation instead of adherence to the law. Two: Convert Gentile people who believed in many gods to believe only in Jesus. And three: Put Jews and Gentiles together to form a unified church in Philippi despite very different cultural and religious traditions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***The people in the Philippian church faced enormous cultural pressure from without: they were expected to show allegiance to the Roman Emperor Nero using titles like Lord and Savior.*** What are some things you feel pressure to show allegiance to today? Do any of these things conflict with your allegiance to Jesus as Lord and Savior? If so, in what ways? How do you resist the pressure?
- ***The Philippian church was also facing pressure from within: from members with selfish ambition and personal agendas.*** Share a story about a group you belong/belonged to that contained members with selfish ambition and/or personal agendas. How was the group negatively impacted? Was the problem resolved? If so, how? Have YOU ever been the one with selfish ambition or a personal agenda? If so, share about that experience.
- ***Paul appeals for unity in the Philippian church by calling them to be "In Christ."*** Read the NIRV version of Philippians 2:1 and discuss your answers to the four questions it contains. Then read Philippians 2:1-8, Romans 8:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, 1 Corinthians 1:10-15, and Ephesians 4:14-16. What do these verses tell us about what it means to be "in Christ"?
- ***You and I live in a world not so different than Philippi or Corinth or any of the people and churches we will learn from throughout this summer worship series.*** So, in this very difficult world we live in, how do we remain in Christ? How do we remind ourselves to trust the story of God's redemptive, reconciling move to us and for us? How does living "in Christ" help YOU sow unity wherever you live, learn, work and play? Share stories from your life that illustrate your answer to the last question.