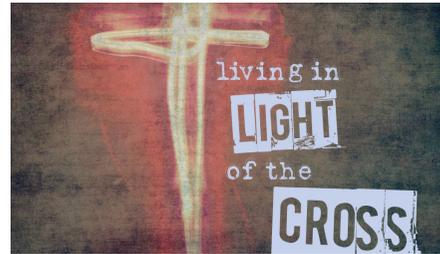


Living in light of the Cross #2

In this short series at MR we'll be considering what the cross says about our discipleship. Each week we'll consider a passage and how it relates to a different aspect of following Jesus.



Overview of Phil 2v1-11...

The background to the situation at Philippi seems to be that pressure from the outside of the church is causing division within (this seems to be fairly clear from 1v27-28 and possibly 4v2-3). Paul is concerned as to how they're reacting.

We split the passage into 2:

1. The Mindset of Magdalen Road Church: we live in humble unity (v1-5):

Because of who the Philippians are and what they've been given (v1), then they are to be humbly unified (v2-4) - they are to think like Jesus (v5). Rather than selfish ambition or vain conceit (glory) which seeks to push ourselves up and others down. And to achieve this, we don't look inwards to try and be a bit more humble, we look at Christ and seek to have a mindset like him:

2. The Mindset of Jesus: he lived in humble submission (v5-11)

We looked at 3 aspects of Jesus in these verses, seeking to establish what it means to have a mindset like him:

1. v6: Who he is. He does not use his status for his own glory or self-seeking, but simply for the needs of others. Note - because God is Trinity and each seeks the good of the others, so to serve is God-like.

2. v7-8: What he's done Jesus takes 4 steps down: 1: becomes a person, 2: becomes a servant, 3: dies, 4: dies a cursed death. Serving his people by being punished in their place.

3. v9-11: What the Father's done. In response to Jesus' obedience, the Father exalts him and gives him the right to worldwide worship. The way to greatness in the kingdom is through suffering & service.

We finished by comparing the 2 kinds of 'glory' evident in the passage, exhausting self-centered v3 type vainglory or God-centred, satisfying v11 type glory. We asked which do we want.

Here are some possible thoughts and questions.
Please be selective and adapt them for your group:

Possible Questions

What do you remember about the situation in Philippi? (Look at 1v27-30 and 4v2-3)

v1-5

Why is it therefore there (v1)?

What does Paul want them to be like as a church?

What reasons does he give for them to be like this?

How might you be able to tell that you're part of a church that needs to work on these things?

What would you do about it?

v5-11

What do you think it means to have a 'mindset'?

Do you have one like Jesus? Why / why not?

How could you actually develop that?

What do we learn about the person of Jesus in these verses?

How do we see he humbled himself?

What do we learn about God Father?

What do we learn about different types of glory?

(Note v3 vainglory and v11)

What 2 things can you take away from this study? Share them with the group and pray for each other.