

The Chapel Ministry



CLEARCREEK
CHAPEL

Others First A Study in Philippians 2

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Savoring the Supremacy of God
Studying the Word of God
Shaping the People of God
Spreading the Gospel of God

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Introduction

Project

The will be a series titled *Others First* from Philippians 2

Purpose

The aim of this series is to teach, apply and challenge our people to live out the putting others first from Philippians 2 in the context of family, both personal and church.

Objectives

To develop the argument of the chapter as a foundation for practical application

To articulate a series of principles to shape and stimulate a concern for others first

To challenge our natural and sinful tendency to focus on self and our own agendas

To map the text over lives by very pointed application and illustration

To foster Christ's way of thinking in order to promote harmony and unity

Resources

Primary Resource

Basics for Believers, D.A. Carson

Secondary Resources

The Peacemaker materials

Format

	AM		PM	
January 8	Its Responsibility	Philippians 2:1-4	Others First – Church	Devon Berry
January 15	Its Attitude	Philippians 2:5-17	Others First – Children	Dale Evans
January 22	Its Aim	Philippians 2:18-30	Others First – Spouses	Greg Cook
January 29	Stuart Scott		Open Forum	

The evening service will work through the concept as developed in Phil 2:1-4 and apply it practically to the different spheres. The principles should be reviewed, illustrated, applied and the Biblical limitations specific to the sphere explained.

Others First Principles

The following are the key principles that arise from the text.

1. Aim to make other people's joy full and complete.
2. Guard against all forms of a self-serving heart and actions.
3. Focus on others interests and needs above your own.
4. Be willing to give up your rights and your reputation for others.
5. Putting others first will be a bright gospel light in our world.

Epaphroditus – Sharing as a Servant**(v.25-30)**

Epaphroditus is an example of *oneness of mind with the church* illustrating the *I am a sacrifice* attitude.

The Unity of a Shared Service**(v.25-26)**

Paul sees a sharing in ministry as fellowship and brotherhood as soldiers and workers. Epaphroditus had come as the church's messenger and to minister to Paul. He wanted to do for Paul what the church had not yet been able to do. He wanted to communicate encouragement and care for Paul personally and practically. So Paul says, "I value him as a fellow servant; You trusted with your care for me."

Here though is the kind of man he was. Even when there is the opportunity to minister to Paul, he is still deeply concerned about the church at Philippi. So concerned that it distressed him that the church had heard about his sickness. What an example of selfless service. Here he is, ministering for the church in serving Paul and now he has fallen sick. His reaction is not to dwell on the circumstances, but to be concerned about the church back home.

Brothers and sisters, are we like this in our homes? Is our serving in ministry for Christ like this? Or does difficulty and distress in ministry cause us to turn inward and begin to complain? Do we find an ever growing self-pity choking out the joy of our sacrifice?

The Sacrifice in a Life-Risking Mission**(v.27-30)**

Epaphroditus has proven himself. He is an example of willingness to die. In fact, he was so sick he almost died. Paul sees his life being saved as aimed at sorrow being spared. The grace to Epaphroditus kept grief from Paul.

We must learn to honor those who serve and sacrifice like this in the family at home and at church.

Why should we honor spouses and parents and children and sheep like this? Because he risked his life to communicate their concern for Paul. His Christ-like attitude held firm even in the face of possible death.

What about your putting others first?

- Are you putting forth every bit of energy to put others first while totally relying on the grace and power of God?
- Is your putting others first filled with joyful, sacrificial self-denial?
- Do you seek to sacrifice and serve for the sake of those over you, whether you husband, you parents, your employer, your leaders at church?
- What will you do now, this afternoon, to repent myself and to promote this in my home?

Conclusion

