

## Group Agenda – February 9, 2008

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**Lesson: "Humility and the Best Interests of Others"**

**Passage: Philippians 2:1-11**

### **Background**

*Learning to control our natural desires and reactions is one of the biggest challenges of life. And especially when it comes to our friendships and marriages, how well they succeed usually depends on how well we can delay our gratification for the good of others. All people are born selfish and impatient – only with time and training and discipline do we figure out how to delay gratification, how to give up our own goals so that others can achieve theirs better or faster.*

*In John, Jesus states that, "No one has greater love than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." This is the ultimate display of self-control: to subvert and set aside my own agenda **permanently**, for the good of others!*

### **IceBreaker**

When you were 20 years old (or 15 years ago), what did you want most in the world? Are those desires the same now, or have they changed?

### **Read & Discuss**

<Read Philippians 2:1-11>

- Paul says in verse 2, Paul tells the church what would really make him happy in this world. What is it? Do you think this was different than what Paul wished for earlier in his life?
- Verses 6 through 8 describe the "attitude" that was necessary for Jesus to come to earth and do what he did. How easy was that for Jesus to do? Did he really want to leave heaven and come to earth? Why did he do it, then?
- In light of what Jesus gave up and sacrificed for us, what attitude should we then hold toward one another in the Body? Look at how Paul says it in verses 3-4.

- What happened to Jesus in the end, since he had such a humble and self-sacrificing attitude (9-11)? What do we have to look forward to if we can emulate his attitude of selflessness?
- What impact does this kind of attitude have on our relationships at home, at work, in the church body, and in the world in general?

### **Apply**

- What are your primary goals in life right now? The best measure of this is how you use 2 things: your **time**, and your **money** (which is really just your time stored up, since it represents hours of work you performed).
- How do the commitments you make steer the use of your time and money? Reflect on marriage, children, job commitments, church service roles, missions, etc. Are there commitments God has called you to make, but you are hesitating because of the demands on your time and money?
- Think about your own funeral. Who is there, and what are they saying? What legacy do you want to leave? What actions must you take now to leave this legacy?

### **Pray**

- Break into pairs or triads, and pray over one another personally. Emphasize taking off selfishness and learning to put others first, like Jesus did.
- Pray for one another's marriages, for parenting children, for specific work relationships, and for any calls to service you might be hearing from God.