



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Joyful Service: The Anti-Grumbling Vaccine
Speaker: Redd Sevilla, Executive Director of New Life CDC
Scripture: Philippians 2:3-5, 12-16

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:3-5, 12-16 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

As we continue reading Philippians, we see Paul writing from inside a prison – a perfect place of grumbling. His place of grumbling became an act of joyful service. Paul had the mindset of Christ and valued others above himself. He was working out his salvation, in prison, even in quarantine.

In the midst of the current pandemic, Paul’s words continue to apply to our present lives. He tells us to serve one another without grumbling or complaining, so that we are blameless and pure. There are many times when we choose grumbling over joyful service. This type of service is so very critical right now, as we are living through the pandemic crisis.

Joyful service is built when 3 things come together: how Jesus served, how we work out and how God works in.

- Jesus served. There is need of restoration of those who are physical sick and a significant need for the restoration of those who are spiritually sick. A physical sickness kills the body, while a spiritual sickness kills the soul. Can it be that we are all carriers of spiritual sickness? Jesus took on the nature of a servant. He came near to us – to take the sins of the world. Regardless of your condition, Jesus comes near to you, to place in you a heart that is forgiven. You are fully loved and because you are fully loved, you are forgiven. When this truth hits you, it fills you like a vaccine.
- We work out. We work out your salvation with fear & trembling. Fear and trembling will happen when you encounter a love as powerful as the love of God. Outer service is can be easily destroyed by grumbling. Inner work is required to process because it can easily destroy outer service. Inner work demands reflection to untie the knots that cause your grumbling.
- God works in. God finds ways to use any situation for his good purpose. Your area of grumbling and complaining can actually be your doorway to joyful service. God is faithful to complete the work in you. He begins it, does it and completes you.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Redd Sevilla, Executive Director of New Life CDC, continues our series through the book of Philippians. Today Redd talks about how the world needs an anti-grumbling vaccine during the current pandemic, and our need to offer joyful service that imparts hope in a hurting world.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, what were issues that were regularly complained about? Who did the complaining? When exploring those issues, are there any similar areas in your life today that you grumble/complain about?
3. Despite Paul's condition, what do you think allowed him to sustain joyful service while in prison? What examples of service do you find throughout this book?
4. What symptoms do you see in yourself of spiritual sickness? If you inwardly reflect, what area would you discover you most complain and grumble about? What would the people you live/work with or know you best say you complain about most? What do you believe triggers your frustration in this area?
5. After identifying what you grumble about, why do you think Christ has placed this challenge in your life? In what way can God use what annoys you to grow you? What opportunities can it give you to serve and improve the situation? What first step can you take to address that issue, (introspection, prayer, confession, accepting God's plan).