

## ***Healthy and Joyful Relationships***

June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### ***Philippians 2:3-5***

#### **God's Word contrasts ...**

... our old life – controlled by Satan and our own human passions *Ephesians 2:1-3*

... with our new life – controlled by God's Holy Spirit *Galatians 5:22-24*

#### **The Old Life produced “rivalry”! “Do nothing from rivalry...”**

Rival: “a competitor ... standing in competition for superiority...”<sup>1</sup>

*Galatians 5:19-20* “Now the works of the flesh are evident: ... rivalries...”

Rivalry: “We might translate it ‘quarrelsomeness’ although that does not quite convey the hint of self-seeking which the word contains.”<sup>2</sup>

*James 3:16* “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”

#### **The Old Life produced “conceit”! “Do nothing from ... conceit, ... ”**

Conceited: “Entertaining a flattering opinion of one's self; having a vain or too high conception of one's own person or accomplishments. ...”<sup>1</sup>

*Romans 12:3* “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

*Galatians 5:26* “Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

#### **The New Life promotes “humility”!**

Humility: “Primarily signifies low-lying...lowliness of the mind.”<sup>3</sup>

❖ Jesus exemplified humility ... *Matthew 11:29* “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

*Psalms 25:9* “He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.”

- 1 Peter 5:5-6

❖ Humility counts others as more significant than ourselves! *Philippians 2:3*

Significant: Bearing meaning and importance

*1 Corinthians 12:24-25* “... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no divisions in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

*1 Peter 4:10* “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

## **The New Life promotes prioritizing the interests of others!**

*Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others.” (AMPC)*

Interests: “to excite emotion or passion”<sup>1</sup>

❖ Questions to consider when putting other’s interests before your own:

- ☞ What are others concerned about?
- ☞ What activity do others like to engage in?
- ☞ What excites others or motivates them?
- ☞ How can I encourage others to pursue their God-given gifts, talents, interests?

*Psalm 20:4 “May He grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans.”*

*“Have this mind among yourselves,  
which is yours in Christ Jesus...”  
Philippians 2:5*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Martin, Ralph P. The Epistles of Paul to the Philippians: an introduction and commentary. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 1978.  
(Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

<sup>3</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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