

Small Group Reflection Questions Phil 2.1-11

1. What is a command? Who gives you commands (police, government, parents, etc.)? What do commands seek to do? What is their purpose?
2. What are the commands in phil 2.2-4? Are these good things or just burdens? How can these bring good things to you and your community? What is hard about them? Are their aspects here that you would like to do but that you find hard or almost impossible to do by yourself?
3. What is critical to see is how Paul gives these commands? God is not a policeman that just says, "do this." How does v.1 and v.2-4 relate to each other? Can you see how Paul intends that the reality of v.1 is what enables our doing v.2-4?
4. So how are you experiencing v.1 personally? Do you think of this just as an idea or a reality? We should seek Christ's real encouragement, love, fellowship, affection and sympathy by asking for it, reflecting on it, praying about it, etc. It is real!
5. So it is the new reality of life with Jesus' love and encouragement that enables us to do the good commands of v.2-4. And this is the model of the New Testament. More often than not, commands come in the context of the new reality that Jesus brings to us. But that is not all, here, Paul also gives us the model of Jesus himself to enable us to follow him in these commands. Look at 2.5-11. What are the things that Jesus did for you?
6. Pray thanking Christ for what he has done for us, how he is real to us in his love and compassion and asking for his help to live in unity through humility.