

SOUTH
SHORE
community church

GROWTH

healthy relationships





- What is on your agenda for this week?
- If we asked Jesus the same question when he was on earth, what would he have said?
- Relational maturity is love centered living. It is often our self focus that slows our progress toward maturity.



- Philippians 2:1-11, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.



- Philippians 2:1-11, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.



- Philippians 2:1-11, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”



- **(1) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to intentionally pass on what we receive from Jesus.** Phil 2:1-2, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”



- **(1) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to be intentionally pass on what we receive from Jesus. Phil 2:1-2**
- We have to live in the river; we have to abide in the vine. Jesus hasn't run out of encouragement, love, fellowship, tenderness or compassion. (e.g., marriage; work)



- **(2) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to beware of the pull toward self.** We all have a propensity toward self-focus. We will have to be aware of it, and fight against it. v.3, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”



- **(2) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to beware of the pull toward self. Phil 2:3**
- We have a bias toward self that is constantly making us ask, “What about me?” What about my rights, my feelings, my needs? (e.g., family; church)



- **(2) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to beware of the pull toward self. Phil 2:3**
- How do we overcome the 'self-life'? (live in the river)
- We can never rise above our level of self-awareness. (summer purging – you don't get to ask that question)



- **(2) If we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to beware of the pull toward self. Phil 2:3**
- How do we overcome the 'self-life'?
- Choose humility – consider others better... (honor) (Paradox - when we die, we live - freedom)



- **Finally, if we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to focus on Jesus & follow His lead.** Philippians 2:5-11, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.



- **Finally, if we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to focus on Jesus & follow His lead.** Philippians 2:5-11, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,



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- **Finally, if we are going to be other centered mature followers of Jesus, we need to focus on Jesus & follow His lead.**
Philippians 2:5-11
- When we focus on Jesus & what He did, we are strengthened & motivated towards 'otherly love.' His example & His presence soften my heart. (some are hurt) He lifts up those who bow down