

I. Synopsis

During the month of October we will look at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. This is a church, which Paul planted during his 2nd missionary journey. Ten years later he writes to those he dearly loves in Philippi as a way to encourage them. Paul discovers the church in Philippi has conflict. He desires for the church to work together, to be of one mind. In order to be united in Christ, Paul confronts the believers to be humble as Christ is humble. Paul challenges us to reflect Christ's character of humility.

II. Ice Breaker Question

What is your favorite sport's team? How do you suppose the team is able to win games?

III. Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13(ESV)

IV. Discussion Questions

1. There are two ways in which pride has infiltrated the church: selfish ambition and vain conceit (Philippians 2:3). The Greek word for vain conceit is *kenodoxia*, which means excessively proud of your opinion. How is pride part of our culture?
2. Proverbs 13:10 states, "Pride leads to conflict." Dr. Gary Smalley from Focus on the Family Ministries argues that pride has the potential to harm relationships. What are your thoughts regarding pride in the context of relationships?
3. Paul tells us the antidote to pride is humility. How would you define humility? While Jesus walked on this earth how did He demonstrate humility? Who in your life demonstrates the characteristic of humility? How does this person interact with others?
4. Rick Warren states, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less." Discuss the impact of this statement. Paul states that humility creates unity. How is this possible?

Warren, Rick, [The Purpose Driven Life](#); Zondervan: Nashville, TN, 2013.