

“We Instead Of Me”
Philippians 1:3-11
Sermon Series: “Joy Invincible”

Introduction: We live in a “me first” world. Let’s be honest, unless we allow the Holy Spirit to refine and control us, we are “me first” people. However, when the church is working like she is supposed to, we are thinking and living “we instead of me.”

-Are you a “me first” or a “we instead of me?” kind of Christian? By the way, a “Christ first” Christian will be a “we instead of me” Christian. Why and how do we live this way when our natural inclination and desire is “me first?”

Why live “we instead of me?”

1. We are connected together by the gospel.

-Fellowship: “Common life, “partnership,” “participation” (examples of myths about what fellowship really is)
-Spell out the gospel

2. We are partnered together for the gospel (v. 7, 4:15).

3. We are secure together in the gospel (v. 6) [This gives confidence]

-Moises Silva says, “Theologians who speak of salvation as being God’s from beginning to end are not using mere rhetoric, for this is precisely Paul’s conception as he addresses the Philippians regarding their share in the gospel.” Kent Hughes writes, “Paul was assuring the Philippians that the work of the long-term fellowship of the gospel that God had begun in them would be brought to glorious consummation when Christ returns. Though Paul was in prison, he was absolutely confident that the good work of their gospel partnership would succeed gloriously.”

Implications: My confidence is in Him holding on to me and not me holding on to Him, my confidence for you can be in Him, my confidence for the church can be in Him, He is seeing us through Covid and blessing us, He will accomplish His plans for us individually and corporately, can be secure and real knowing that I’m imperfect but accepted and growing but not having arrived

How do we live out we instead of me?

1. We live out we instead of me by thanking God for each other. (v.3- I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,)

2. We live out we instead of me by praying for each other (v. 4, 9-11). What did he pray for them? In essence, he prayed for their sanctification, which is for their spiritual growth, maturity, and Christlikeness. Specifically, he prayed for:

- A. Love to abound in knowledge and discernment**
- B. The establishment of right priorities**
- C. Genuineness and integrity**
- D. The fruit of righteousness to be produced in us by Jesus**
- E. That God would be glorified and praised**

3. We live out we instead of me by how we treat each other (v.7-8).

- You are on my mind.
- You are in my heart.
- The love of Jesus is in my heart.
- The love of Jesus is expressed by my actions. **Don't just thank God but also show appreciation to each other.**