

Church Rhythm 1

[Phi 2:1-11 ESV] 1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Intro

- A. The Responsibility of a believer is clearly taught in scripture.
- B. We have the blessing of GRACE that provides for us salvation, life, and relationship.
- C. But we also have the responsibility to work in the power of that grace
- D. Responsibility: liable to be called on to answer, able to answer for one's conduct and obligations
- E. A believer is responsible to HOLY GOD and to HIS BRIDE, the church.
 - 1. This is not to be structured in such a way that is less than honoring to the Lord
 - a) Leadership should be marked with humility and grace
 - b) Followers should be marked with humility and grace
 - c) But we should also be marked with a determination to serve as we have been called.
 - 2. There is one LORD and we yield to Him and His word
 - 3. The truth is in the text, the message to us from God
- F. The trouble is, most of us will not disagree with any of the responsibilities I'm going to teach in this series, but you may be out of rhythm.
 - 1. The Rhythm of Regular Attendance
 - 2. The Rhythm of Generous Giving
 - 3. The Rhythm of Faithful Service
 - 4. The Rhythm of Holy Fellowship
 - 5. The Rhythm of Gospel Living
- G. Church: the body of Christ
- H. Rhythm: strong, regular, repeated pattern
- I. Our rhythm should look like Jesus!
- J. When you get out of rhythm, you will struggle:
- K. Our heart is beating in rhythm: from Harvard Health:
 - 1. When it comes to your heart rate, it's a bit like the speed of your car. What you want is not too fast, not too slow, and not too erratic. In fact, most of the time, heart rhythm and pace are not things you need to think about. And unless something unusual is going on, you're likely completely unaware of what your heart is doing.
 - 2. Heart rate is important because the heart's function is so important. The heart circulates oxygen and nutrient-rich blood throughout the body. When it's not working properly, just about everything is affected. Heart rate is central to this process because the function of the heart (called "cardiac output") is directly related to heart rate and stroke volume (the amount of blood pumped out with each beat).

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-2:
 - 1. Be like Jesus in all the ways you interact with others
 - 2. One mind with Christ
- B. Verses 3-4:
 - 1. Look to the needs of others
 - 2. Serve selflessly
- C. Verses 5-7:
 - 1. Allow your mind to be transformed

2. The mind of Christ is attainable through the Spirit that lives in you.
3. Emptied Himself: a challenging phrase for translators:
 - a) NLT: gave up His divine privileges
 - b) KJV: made himself of no reputation
 - c) Many others: NASB: Emptied Himself
4. Jesus did not give up His divinity, but did veil it so he could be our example

D. Verses 8-11:

1. Christ gave His life willingly
2. He did His work, and changed the world
3. He is our Lord, our boss, and our example

III. Point

A. Responsibility:

1. In this series we will look at the responsibility of the believer to God and the Church
2. We will discuss serving, giving, learning, worshipping,
3. Our responsibility is to copy the life of Christ, and fall into a healthy rhythm of life that reflects our love and obedience
4. [2Co 5:14 ESV] 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;
5. A Responsible rhythm is one where we repeatedly and habitually pattern our life after Christ.

B. Resources:

1. God provides for us
2. God's provision is for His purpose and Glory
3. When you are blessed, you are responsible to be a blessing
4. The Rhythm of Christ in our resources is to use everything we have been blessed with to honor the Lord.
5. Our resources are His resources when we die to self and live for Christ.
6. This affects:
 - a) The way we give financially
 - b) The way we serve faithfully
 - c) If we desire God's blessing in our life, but refuse obedience to God's plan, we have missed the message.

C. Reliability:

1. One of the things plaguing the church in America is a lack of reliability from the believers.
2. The 80/20 rule has been explained over and over, but I'll say its not good enough to just accept it for what it is.
 - a) There should be an anticipation for better
 - b) There should be an expectation for better
 - c) There should be an opportunity for better
3. When you practice the Rhythm of Christ, you become a reliable follower, not shifting with every wind of doctrine.

IV. Close

- A. We are going to look at the Biblical Responsibilities of believers, so I challenge you to pray and seek the Lord about your responsibility.
- B. Adjust your life and get in rhythm.
- C. We are the Body of Christ, we serve...it should be our rhythm.
- D. If you are out of rhythm with God, stop trying to fix it yourself, and listen to God's instruction.
 1. Get in sync with God
 2. Don't expect him to change to get in sync with us.
- E. Proverbs 3:5-6