

DEVOTION THREE

JESUS IS THE ONLY BOAST POINT.

KEY SCRIPTURE (PHILIPPIANS 2:2-4): "...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Last devotion, we reflected on representing Christ and how we should honour him in our actions. This verse helps us unpack what that looks like. Paul here encourages godly behaviour anchored in a person's love of God. Read over the scripture again. If we are honest with ourselves, this is a hard ask, right? Doing NOTHING out of selfish ambition or conceit? Being humble. *It isn't easy.* Why would we value others over ourselves? If you're wearing the Jesus Jersey, I hope you think Jesus is awesome. Well, he was humble; everything he did was done in humility. He became human and gave his life for you and for all mankind, rising again to bring life eternal for those who hope in him. So, we should live like that striving to love others as he loved them. Looking out for what the bible often calls the 'orphan and the widow; in other words, anyone who needs support. We easily become arrogant and selfish, though, can we? I suggest a three-fold antidote to this. 1. Knowing (in our hearts and minds) who God is and his place as our saviour, so remind yourself of the gospel regularly. 2. Asking the Holy Spirit to change us with his power because we can't do it alone. 3. Actively training our thoughts and actions. Stop your thoughts. Ask, is this valuing others over me? Is this loving and self-sacrificial? Am I honouring Christ? If not, pray, stop yourself, retry. God is the God of Grace.

REFLECT: How might I need to change my habits or behaviours to be more loving? How can you look after the interests of other this week? Perhaps it's sitting with the new person at school or helping clear up even when not asked to at home. Think of something you can do to put others first today.

PRAY: Pray a prayer structured as:

Thank you (People, provision. Pray thanks for God's work in your life.)

Sorry (we all fall short of obeying God and living as he asks us to, and when we honestly ask him for forgiveness, he washes it away!)

Please (ask him for anything you need, for provision for you and your family. Pray for those in your discussion group. Pray for family or friends who need God's love and care.)