

Leader's Guide for *I Choose Love*

Section 1: Answers Filled In

Application / Discussion Questions

1. Why is our unity so important to God? Read *John 13:34-35* for added insight.
2. On what basis are we to be motivated toward authentic unity in relationships (*Phil. 2:1*)?
3. What does “declaring war” on selfishness look like in your life? Discuss the “paradox” of servant living and personal joy.
4. What is the impact of practicing humility in the lives of family? Neighbors? Coworkers? The world in general?
5. What specific relationship needs a “dose” of “**I Am Second**” mindset this week? Home? Work? Friends? Share one specific step you will take this week to practice the “Platinum Rule.”



For additional resources, download the **Chip Ingram app** or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Gives

I Choose Love - PART 1 – *Philippians 2:1-2*

Intro: You Can Make God Happy

- One of God’s greatest joys is the see His children

LOVE EACH OTHER.

- A prayer that only you can answer – *John 17*
- Paul commands what Jesus prayed – *Philippians 2:1-2*

¹Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2 (NASB, 1995)

The Context =	Conflict Without – <i>Phil. 1:29-30</i>
	Conflict Within – <i>Phil. 4:2</i>
The Command =	Live in authentic, Christ-empowered Unity (vv. 1-2)
The Structure =	If you have any <u>encouragement</u> in Christ,
	If any <u>comfort</u> from His love,
	If any <u>fellowship</u> with the Spirit,
	If any <u>tenderness</u> and <u>compassion</u> ... (v. 1)

Then make my joy complete by...

1. Being of the same mind
2. Maintaining the same love
3. United in spirit
4. Intent on one purpose (v. 2)

The Platinum Rule

“Do unto others as God has already done unto you.”

How to Become a More Loving Person

1. Choose to declare war on **SELFISHNESS**.

*Do nothing from **selfishness** or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;*

Philippians 2:3

2. Attack the root of the problem... **PRIDE**.

*Do nothing from selfishness or **empty conceit**, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;*

Philippians 2:3

3. Choose to **PRACTICE HUMILITY** daily by putting others' needs and interests ahead of your own.

do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Summary = Love's Identity = "I Am **SECOND."**

Conclusion - God Wants You to be Great!

- The Acid Test of Greatness = **LOVE**
- The Road to Greatness = **HUMILITY**
- The Opportunity for Greatness = **SERVING**

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Is there anything wrong with wanting to be great? Successful?
2. How does God define greatness? Success?
3. Discuss Christ's descent into greatness. Walk through each point and share what descending would look like in your life and relationships.
4. Where, who, and how would God have you serve: at home? at Venture? at work or school?



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Serves

I Choose Love - PART 2 – *Philippians 2:3-11*

Intro: The Quest for Greatness = **UNIVERSAL!**

How Do We Measure Greatness?

- **Power** = Who and What We Control
- **Possessions** = What and How Much We Own
- **Position** = Our Rank in the Pecking Order
- **Prestige** = Who and How Many "Look Up" to Us
- **Productivity** = What and How Much We Accomplish

How Do We Obtain Greatness?

- Two Roads to Greatness
- **ASCENDING** vs. **DESCENDING**
- True Greatness Defined = *Philippians 2:3-4*

How Is True Greatness Achieved?

One Word = **HUMILITY**

Humility is the channel through which the supernatural power of God's love flows to heal our deepest hurts and restore our most important relationships.

Following Jesus into Greatness

How to be Authentically Humble

1. Humility flows from a specific "mindset".

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
Philippians 2:5*

2. We achieve *True Greatness* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Power** and **Possessions**.

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:6

3. We become *Truly Great* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Position** and **Prestige**.

but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7

4. We become *Truly Great* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Productivity**.

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

5. We experience the **REWARD** of *True Greatness* when we follow Christ's example of **servanthood**.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Application / Discussion Questions

1. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you had of God and His role in your life?
2. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you believed God has of you?
3. What is God's part in our ongoing transformation to become like Jesus? What's our part?
4. Where do you see growth and progress in "working out" what God has "worked in" your life?
5. Where do you need to focus your effort and energy to allow Jesus' life to be manifested "in" and "through" you?

☐ Attitude?
☐ Godliness?
☐ Boldness?

☐ Speech?
☐ Authenticity?
6. Check 1 or 2 above and share what next steps would help you grow and/or what help you might need from others.



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Obeys

I Choose Love - PART 3 – *Philippians 2:12-18*

Intro: Our Expectations Powerfully Shape...

- **Our Relationships**

- **Our Responses**

Key = Our personal history is paramount in forming our expectations.

Two Critical Questions

1. What can we expect from God?
2. What does God expect from us?

Remember = Our **HISTORY** always shapes our expectations, and historically people have answered these two questions very differently.

Church History - Two Views Concerning God's Expectations

J. CALVIN

Sovereignty

Predestination

"It's God who's at work"

"Whatever will be, will be"

Eternally Secure

"Let go, and let God"

J. ARMINUS

Responsibility

Free Will

"Work out your salvation"

Choices have consequences

Eternally Uncertain

"Let's go and let's get with it!"

God's Word rejects both extremes and hold God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in "Biblical Tension" and balance. - *Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB, 1995)*

Man's Responsibility = *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

Philippians 2:12 (NASB, 1995)

God's Sovereignty = *for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:13 (NASB, 1995)

How Do We "Work Out" What God "Worked In"?

The Command = Be a **GRATEFUL** Servant!

*Do everything without complaining or arguing,
Philippians 2:14 (NIV)*

The Purpose = Be a **GODLY** Servant!

*so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."
Philippians 2:15a (NIV)*

The Result = Be a **BOLD** Servant!

Then you will shine among them like stars in sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2:15b-16a (NIV)

The Motive = Be a **JOYFUL** Servant!

And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:16b-18 (NIV)

Application / Discussion Questions

1. Which of the 4 questions did you answer “yes” to?
Explain your answer.
2. Share a time when God used your life to help someone in a significant way. How did it feel?
3. Why do you think God sometimes passes over “talented and gifted” people to use people like Timothy?
4. How does a hurried, busy lifestyle “kill love” in relationships?
5. What specifically do you need to stop or start doing to become the kind of person God can really use?



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Cares

I Choose Love - PART 4 – *Philippians 2:19-30*

Intro: God is Always Searching...

What is He Looking For?

³⁰ I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. ³¹ Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NASB1995)

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

2 Chronicles 16:9

Question = Why does God use some people and not others?

The Answer = *Philippians 2:19-30*

The purpose for sending Timothy?

Paul **CARES!**

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

Philippians 2:19

The reason Timothy was chosen?

Timothy **CARES!**

²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

Philippians 2:20-24

The reason Epaphroditus is sent?

Epaphroditus **CARES!**

²⁵ But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶ because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. ²⁹ Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Philippians 2:25-30

Summary = Timothy and Epaphroditus exemplify the kind of person God uses to fulfill His purposes on Earth.

4 Things God is Looking For:

1. Do you have a **SERVANT'S** heart?
2. Are you willing and **AVAILABLE**?
3. Are you **FAITHFUL** in the assignments God gives you?
4. Are you **LOYAL** and teachable?

Leader's Guide for *I Choose Love*

Section 2: Blanks to be Filled In

Application / Discussion Questions

1. Why is our unity so important to God? Read *John 13:34-35* for added insight.
2. On what basis are we to be motivated toward authentic unity in relationships (*Phil. 2:1*)?
3. What does “declaring war” on selfishness look like in your life? Discuss the “paradox” of servant living and personal joy.
4. What is the impact of practicing humility in the lives of family? Neighbors? Coworkers? The world in general?
5. What specific relationship needs a “dose” of “**I Am Second**” mindset this week? Home? Work? Friends? Share one specific step you will take this week to practice the “Platinum Rule.”



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Gives

I Choose Love - PART 1 – *Philippians 2:1-2*

Intro: You Can Make God Happy

- One of God’s greatest joys is the see His children

- A prayer that only you can answer – *John 17*

- Paul commands what Jesus prayed – *Philippians 2:1-2*

¹Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2 (NASB, 1995)

The Context = Conflict Without – *Phil. 1:29-30*
Conflict Within – *Phil. 4:2*

The Command = Live in authentic, Christ-empowered Unity (vv. 1-2)

The Structure = If you have any encouragement in Christ,
If any comfort from His love,
If any fellowship with the Spirit,
If any tenderness and compassion... (v. 1)

Then make my joy complete by...

1. Being of the same mind
2. Maintaining the same love
3. United in spirit
4. Intent on one purpose (v. 2)

The Platinum Rule

“Do unto others as God has already done unto you.”

How to Become a More Loving Person

1. Choose to declare war on _____.

*Do nothing from **selfishness** or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;*

Philippians 2:3

2. Attack the root of the problem... _____.

*Do nothing from selfishness or **empty conceit**, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;*

Philippians 2:3

3. Choose to _____ daily by putting others' needs and interests ahead of your own.

do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Summary = Love's Identity = “I Am _____”

Conclusion - God Wants You to be Great!

- The Acid Test of Greatness = _____
- The Road to Greatness = _____
- The Opportunity for Greatness = _____

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Is there anything wrong with wanting to be great? Successful?
2. How does God define greatness? Success?
3. Discuss Christ's descent into greatness. Walk through each point and share what descending would look like in your life and relationships.
4. Where, who, and how would God have you serve: at home? at Venture? at work or school?



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Serves

I Choose Love - PART 2 – *Philippians 2:3-11*

Intro: The Quest for Greatness = _____!

How Do We Measure Greatness?

- **Power** = Who and What We Control
- **Possessions** = What and How Much We Own
- **Position** = Our Rank in the Pecking Order
- **Prestige** = Who and How Many "Look Up" to Us
- **Productivity** = What and How Much We Accomplish

How Do We Obtain Greatness?

- Two Roads to Greatness
- _____ vs. _____
- True Greatness Defined = *Philippians 2:3-4*

How Is True Greatness Achieved?

One Word = _____

Humility is the channel through which the supernatural power of God's love flows to heal our deepest hurts and restore our most important relationships.

Following Jesus into Greatness

How to be Authentically Humble

1. Humility flows from a specific "mindset".

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
Philippians 2:5*

2. We achieve *True Greatness* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Power** and **Possessions**.

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:6

3. We become *Truly Great* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Position** and **Prestige**.

but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7

4. We become *Truly Great* when we embrace Christ's "mindset" toward **Productivity**.

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

5. We experience the _____ of *True Greatness* when we follow Christ's example of **servanthood**.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Application / Discussion Questions

1. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you had of God and His role in your life?
2. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you believed God has of you?
3. What is God's part in our ongoing transformation to become like Jesus? What's our part?
4. Where do you see growth and progress in "working out" what God has "worked in" your life?
5. Where do you need to focus your effort and energy to allow Jesus' life to be manifested "in" and "through" you?

☐ Attitude?
☐ Godliness?
☐ Boldness?

☐ Speech?
☐ Authenticity?
6. Check 1 or 2 above and share what next steps would help you grow and/or what help you might need from others.



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Obeys

I Choose Love - PART 3 – *Philippians 2:12-18*

Intro: Our Expectations Powerfully Shape...

- **Our Relationships**

- **Our Responses**

Key = Our personal history is paramount in forming our expectations.

Two Critical Questions

1. What can we expect from God?
2. What does God expect from us?

Remember = Our _____ always shapes our expectations, and historically people have answered these two questions very differently.

Church History - Two Views Concerning God's Expectations

J. CALVIN

Sovereignty

Predestination

"It's God who's at work"

"Whatever will be, will be"

Eternally Secure

"Let go, and let God"

J. ARMINUS

Responsibility

Free Will

"Work out your salvation"

Choices have consequences

Eternally Uncertain

"Let's go and let's get with it!"

God's Word rejects both extremes and hold God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in "Biblical Tension" and balance. - *Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB, 1995)*

Man's Responsibility = *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

Philippians 2:12 (NASB, 1995)

God's Sovereignty = *for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:13 (NASB, 1995)

How Do We "Work Out" What God "Worked In"?

The Command = Be a _____ Servant!

*Do everything without complaining or arguing,
Philippians 2:14 (NIV)*

The Purpose = Be a _____ Servant!

*so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."
Philippians 2:15a (NIV)*

The Result = Be a _____ Servant!

Then you will shine among them like stars in sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2:15b-16a (NIV)

The Motive = Be a _____ Servant!

And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:16b-18 (NIV)

Application / Discussion Questions

1. Which of the 4 questions did you answer “yes” to?
Explain your answer.
2. Share a time when God used your life to help someone in a significant way. How did it feel?
3. Why do you think God sometimes passes over “talented and gifted” people to use people like Timothy?
4. How does a hurried, busy lifestyle “kill love” in relationships?
5. What specifically do you need to stop or start doing to become the kind of person God can really use?



For additional resources,
download the **Chip Ingram app**
or visit LivingontheEdge.org.
Copyright ©2024 Chip Ingram
and Living on the Edge



Chip Ingram
Living on the Edge

Love ♥ Cares

I Choose Love - PART 4 – *Philippians 2:19-30*

Intro: God is Always Searching...

What is He Looking For?

³⁰ I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. ³¹ Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NASB1995)

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

2 Chronicles 16:9

Question = Why does God use some people and not others?

The Answer = *Philippians 2:19-30*

The purpose for sending Timothy?

Paul _____!

But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

Philippians 2:19

The reason Timothy was chosen?

Timothy _____!

²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

Philippians 2:20-24

The reason Epaphroditus is sent?

Epaphroditus _____!

²⁵ But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶ because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. ²⁹ Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰ because he came close to death [d]for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete [e]what was deficient in your service to me.

Philippians 2:25-30

Summary = Timothy and Epaphroditus exemplify the kind of person God uses to fulfill His purposes on Earth.

4 Things God is Looking For:

1. Do you have a _____ heart?
2. Are willing and _____?
3. Are you _____ in the assignments God gives you?
4. Are you _____ and teachable?