

The Pathway to Happiness

"Pride leads to arguments." Proverbs 13:10 (NLT)

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:1-11 (NLT)

God's pathway to happiness = <u>humility</u>, which leads to <u>harmony</u>, which leads to happiness.

HOW TO BUILD HAPPINESS THROUGH HUMILITY...

Step #1: I must always look to and through Jesus.

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. **(vs. 1-2)**

Step #2: I must never let pride be my guide.

"Don't do anything from selfish ambition or vain conceit." Phil. 2:3 (NIV)

"Whenever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, you'll find disorder and every other kind of evil." James 3:16 (NLT)

Step #3: I must choose to <u>humbly</u> honor <u>others.</u>

"Don't do anything from selfish ambition or vain conceit. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourself." Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

... "God opposes the proud but he gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (NLT)

Step #4: I must practice <u>killing</u> people with <u>kindness</u>. (WWJD = *Serve others*)

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had..., he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being... He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:5,7-8 (NLT)

The Jesus Model...

- a. Meet people where they are.
- b. Discover the need.
- c. Actually <u>do</u> something about it.

Step #5: I must trust <u>God</u> with the <u>outcome</u>.

Because of this, God exalted Jesus to the highest honor... Philippians 2:9

Going deeper on your own: Read Philippians 2:1-4 aloud three times. What theme is the Apostle Paul using here? Both modern research and Scripture put the ball in our court. Happy people serve others, give of themselves, and seek to make others happy. Would you agree? Pastor Jay stated, "Happiness does not precede serving and giving of ourselves to others; it accompanies and follows it." Do you agree with this statement? Read Acts 20:35, Luke 6:30-36, Isaiah 58:10-11, and Romans 12:6-8. The key to finding happiness is to give ourselves away! The straightest path to happiness is devoting ourselves to the happiness of God and others. This week, ask God to lead you to one act of humble service for His glory and the building up of someone else. After you do, write Pastor Jay, Jay@centerpointchurch.com, telling him your story.