

Small Group Conversation – Diocesan Council

Thursday afternoon, February 18, 2010

Philippians 2.1-16

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, **2** make my joy complete: be 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 regard others as better than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others. **5** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, **7** but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross! **9** Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave 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 should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmuring and arguing, **15** so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. **16** It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Questions for reflection:

1. What have been and are the major influences (spiritual and otherwise) that have made me who I am?
2. In reference to “bearing one another’s burdens”, how do you listen to someone and really hear what they have to say? How do you say what you want to say in a way so that another can really hear?
3. To model ourselves on the pattern of Christ, what practices should we be encouraging in our communities of faith? How do these practices serve to knit us together?
4. What are the challenges in the passage above? What are the promises?