

HOW YOU CAN BE HAPPIER

I. SHIFT THE FOCUS AWAY FROM YOURSELF.

Phil. 2:20-21, “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own...” (NKJV)

II. BECOME SOMEONE THAT PEOPLE TRUST.

A. If you learn to be trustworthy, reliable, consistent, dependable, and you develop those qualities in life, you're going to be a whole lot happier than people who aren't trustworthy.

III. LEARN HOW TO WORK WELL WITH OTHERS BY BEING MORE COOPERATIVE WITH PEOPLE AND BEING MORE CONSIDERATE OF PEOPLE.

A. What do you need to learn in order to work with other people? The Bible says you need to learn two things.

1. First, we need to learn to cooperate.

a. Paul gives Epaphroditus, as an example of being a team player.

Phil. 2:25, “Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier...” (NKJV)

(1.) The church is a family. Paul calls him my brother.

(2.) The church is a job to do. Paul says he is “my fellow worker.”

(3.) The church is to fight. “My fellow soldier.”

2. Second, we need to learn to be considerate.

1 Cor. 1:10, “I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.” (MSG)

IV. LIVE FOR SOMETHING WORTH DYING FOR.

A. Most people are giving first-class hours of their life to second-class causes.

B. The question you need to ask yourself is: To what are you giving all of your time, all of your energy, all of your thoughts, and money, and is it going to matter five years from today? How much is this going to matter in ten years? How much is it going to matter in eternity?

1. The best use of your life is to invest it in that which outlasts it.

Matt. 6:19-21, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (NKJV)

2. You need to live for something worth dying for.

Phil. 2:30, “Because for the work of Christ he (Epaphroditus) came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.” (NKJV)

3. This verse says he risked his life. In Greek, it literally says he hazarded his life. It's a gambling term. Epaphroditus is God's godly gambler. He gambled his life for Jesus Christ.

C. We need to ask ourselves two very personal questions.

1. First, what commitment have you started that you haven't yet finished?

2. Second, is your commitment to Christ deep enough to cause you to risk your life?

D. Most people say, “I'll live for Christ as long as it's convenient.”

1. Are you willing to live for Christ at work and on Sundays when it's inconvenient and uncomfortable? Well, no. Then are you really much of a Christian?

2. Let me give you a little secret. God is looking for some of you to say like Epaphroditus, “I=ll go, I=ll take their place.”

3. God did not save you or bring you to this church to just sit and watch it happen.

4. God is calling you to be a part in some way, and to play some role, of what He wants to do through this church.

5. Will you pray this week the most dangerous prayer in the world? It's two words: Use me.

E. Why should you pray this prayer? Because it's the secret of happiness.

1. Happiness comes from putting service before security.

F. Jesus' secret of happiness is found in:

Mark 8:35, “If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their

lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.” (TLB)

G. The happiest people on earth are caring, consistent, cooperative, considerate and courageous.

1. They're caring - they get the focus off themselves.
2. They're consistent - they learn to be trustworthy.
3. They're cooperative and considerate - they know how to work with other people on a team.
4. They're courageous - they're willing to take risks in faith and get involved in their church.

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