

CELL NOTES 1/2/10

ICE BREAKER

What is the best thing that has happened to you in the last week?

THEME

Like Christ

Reading; Phil 2 : 1 - 11

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) Remember last week's memory verse? It's in today's passage – v 5
- 2) Attitude is a vital matter. A Christ-like attitude, and willingness to allow other people's ideas and preferences to take precedence over ours is vital for a united church.
- 3) The Millionaires in "The Secret Millionaire" try to gain an understating of the lives of others.
- 4) Writing from prison, rather than bemoaning his lot, Paul makes a strong appeal for unity.
- 5) Within churches we will not agree about everything, or share the same preferences in a host of ways, but we can share the same attitude towards each other, and a common aim in sharing the good news.
- 6) What unites? A common experience of the work of Christ in our lives.
- 7) In practice disagreement can happen easily , often because we are too busy justifying our position, irrespective if the impact this may have on theirs.
- 8) Wrong attitudes include "selfish ambition" (i.e. success at somebody else's expense), and prioritising the impression we make on others.
- 9) We are urged to be humble – not denying our gifts, but putting the needs and opinions of others before our own.
- 10) Jesus measures greatness in terms of service, as described in the ancient hymn which forms vv6 - 11. He calls us to downward mobility, and a laying aside of rights, to serve Him and each other.

QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

- 1) Reading between the lines, what do you think concerned Paul about the church at Philippi?
- 2) How does humility differ from being a doormat?
- 3) How do you balance meeting the needs of others with meeting you own needs?
- 4) What rights may I be called to lay aside?
- 5) How do you balance holding to something you hold dear with the impact that may have when others see things very differently?