

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – September 25th – 30th
Doing Life Together – Community of Unity Pt 3

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Philippians 2:3

OBSERVATION: “Vain conceit” can literally be translated “empty glory.” There are some differences between selfish ambition and vain conceit. John MacArthur said this: Whereas selfish ambition pursues personal goals, empty conceit seeks personal glory and acclaim. The former pertains to personal accomplishments; the latter to an overinflated self-image. Understandably, a person with such conceit considers himself always to be right and expects others to agree with him. The only unity he seeks or values is centered on himself.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: James 4:1-2

OBSERVATION: These Christians were warring because they were living in opposition to God’s design. They were seeking their own desires and glory instead of the desires and glory of God. Somebody had even died amongst these scattered congregations because of their selfish ambition. Similarly, selfish ambition and vain glory led the Pharisees to kill Jesus. They did not want to lose their place and authority in Israel.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 Timothy 1:15

OBSERVATION: Why did Paul talk about himself in this way? He called himself the worst sinner; the KJV translates it the chief of sinners. Why did Paul have such “low self-esteem”—the least apostle and the chief sinner? Why was his esteem so low? It was because he esteemed everybody else higher than himself. If this were not enough, Paul also said that he made himself a servant or slave of everyone. “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible” (1 Corinthians 9:19).

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Philippians 2:4

OBSERVATION: Not only must we take care of our personal interests, but ultimately we must exalt the interests of others. This is the nature of the servant. We should notice the word “look.” “Look” means to observe something. But, as in this context, it often carries the additional ideas of giving close attention and special consideration.¹³ I think many Christians would be servants if others just told them their needs. However, the best servants are not just waiting to be asked; they are observant. They are looking out to discern others’ needs and how to best meet them.

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Romans 14:19

OBSERVATION: As Christians, we share one Lord, one body, one purpose, one Father, one Spirit, one hope, one faith, one baptism, and one love. We share the same salvation, the same life, and the same future – and these are factors far more important than any little differences that might try to divide us.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 4:2

OBSERVATION: Groucho Marx was famous for saying he wouldn’t want to belong to any club that would let him in. If a church has to be perfect to satisfy you, that same perfection will exclude you from membership! A critical spirit is a costly vice! The Bible calls Satan “the accuser of our brethren” (Revelation 12:10). It’s his job to blame, complain and criticize the members of God’s family ... and any time we do the same, we’re being duped into doing Satan’s work for him!