

As we continue our week learning more deeply about what it takes to secure an authentic community in our Christian fellowship here at Faith Wesleyan, Paul shares in today's verses some core building blocks critical to making ours a successful community. They highlight the key characteristics of our Lord's life that give rise to the joyous heavenly community we all long for here on Earth. These actions include; doing nothing selfish... humbly valuing others above ourself... looking not to our own interests but putting our neighbor's interests first... in all of our relationships having the same mind as Jesus.

Wow! That surely is a tall order for mere mortals like ourselves. Paul goes on to say that though Jesus was God in his very nature he took on the very nature of a servant. The humble servant model Christ taught, and the early Church tried to emulate, seems to be the key to creating and maintaining a vibrant community. As we all seek to live more perfectly together the high calling of the gospel, His Holy Spirit brings this miracle of true Christian Community into our midst. I know this is true since I was blessed to witness it first hand at this year's Faith Family Weekend. The great fellowship experienced, the mutual joy, the caring, the fun, the vibrant community was truly a foretaste of the eternal blissful heavenly community which awaits us.

Paul closed these verses on community to his congregation at Philippi with this admonition; "Therefore my dear friends work out your salvation with awe and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." Thankfully it is by His grace that we are enabled and empowered to make it real.

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