

A Church Like Jesus

Series: One-off Sermons

Date: September 26th 2010

THE BIG IDEA:

What would it be like to be 'a church like Jesus?' It is very easy – but rarely helpful - for us to compare PBC to other churches, or to expect our own expectations of church to be met, but what would PBC be like if our main motivation was for PBC to be more like Jesus? And it can become more like Jesus if we each exhibit the same 'mind' of Jesus that we read about in Philippians 2.

OPENING ICE-BREAKER:

Ask everyone to share (briefly!) what they think of when they hear the word 'grace.' Ask them to share when they have seen grace in action.

BIBLE READINGS

- **Key Verse: Philippians 2:1-15**
- John 13:13-17
- Hebrews 12:2
- Mark 2:1-12
- Luke 7:11-17

THOUGHTS

Wayne unpacked Philippians 2 answering what a 'church like Jesus' would be like

1. **The challenge of the passage:** v5, 'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' or 'Let this mind be in you too.' We are each to prayerfully seek to exhibit the very same attitude of Jesus in our relationships, in our church, in the whole of our lives.
2. **A church like Jesus will serve with humility:** v5 – Jesus became flesh as a servant, and demonstrates a pattern when he washes his disciples feet that he calls us to follow. Our weapon against pride is humility. Ego stands for 'Edging God Out.' How can we serve with humility?
3. **A church like Jesus will hold nothing back:** v8 Jesus in obedience went to the cross – he held nothing back and gave everything. Jesus also commends the friends of the paralysed man who held nothing back and tore a roof open to get their friend to Jesus. How can we live with greater boldness and trust and hold nothing back?
4. **A church like Jesus will love others compassionately:** v8, 'And being found in appearance as a man...' God demonstrates a pattern for us to imitate that to live the way of Jesus means we get close to people we're trying to reach. In Luke 7 we see Jesus have compassion on a widow but his compassion leads to action. Can we allow our compassion to lead to action? Can we get close to those we are trying to reach?
5. **A church like Jesus will shine:** v15 We are compared to stars that shine in the universe as we hold out the word of life. As we become more like the Word of God, as his mind infuses our mind with the right attitudes and actions, we will shine like the stars in the universe. How can we keep shining? What we do must not take precedence over the Jesus that we love. PBC must spring from our love for Jesus, flowing through our actions and ministries.

VERSES TO LEARN

'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...' Philippians 2:5

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, ask God to help you to live with the attitude and mind of Jesus.

Small Group Notes: Pembury Baptist Church, 27th September 2010

READING - A poem by Beth Moore:

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

I cheat you of your God-given destiny...because you demand your own way.

I cheat you of contentment... because you "deserve better than this."

I cheat you of knowledge... because you already know it all.

I cheat you of healing... because you are too full of you to forgive.

I cheat you of holiness... because you refuse to admit when you are wrong.

I cheat you of vision... because you'd rather look in the mirror than out a window.

I cheat you of genuine friendship... because nobody's going to know the real you.

I cheat you of love... because real romance demands sacrifice.

I cheat you of greatness in heaven... because you refuse to wash another's feet on earth.

I cheat you of God's glory... because I convinced you to seek your own.

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

You like me because you think I'm always looking out for you.

Untrue.

I'm looking to make a fool of you.

God has so much for you, I admit, but don't worry...

If you stick with me you'll never know.