

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

The Uber-ised Church

Uber-Gracepoint – Ian France – 4.10.2026

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-11

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Paul had been telling the Philippians how to stand strong for the Lord against any troubles the world may present. Now he told them how to deal with any internal problems. He laid down the basis for Christian community, which should include unity, humility and love. He asked some rhetorical questions about whether they could be strong and brave in Christ, and whether Jesus could offer them the comfort of love and the fellowship of the Spirit. Could they find affection and mercy with Jesus? He knew that they all understood the answer to these questions was affirmative.

He told them it would make him happy if they lived in line with his suggestions about a Christian community. There should be a deep unity, with people agreeing with one another and loving one another. There should be no selfish ambition, and people should not think too highly of themselves. The idea that others were better than themselves contradicted the way of the world, which encouraged people to impose their will on others and look down on the humble. When everyone looked up to those around them, no one was looked down on, which led to unity among Christ followers. When they look out for one another, they would be more concerned for the needs and interests of the community.

Paul went on to describe the mind of Christ in his letter, as he listed the elements that were pertinent to the Philippians at that time. But first he told his readers what they should do with the information. He began by describing Jesus before the incarnation as the essential nature of God. The Greek word translated as form does not mean a physical

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shape or image but the essence of Jesus. He was willing to release some of the privileges of being one with God as He became man. He did not empty Himself of His deity or any aspect of being equal with God, but He emptied Himself into the form of a bondservant, rather than just a man.

This was an addition to His Godliness, rather than a subtraction from it. His humanity was added to His deity. He had to leave heaven and become a man to become obedient to the Father. He humbled Himself and became obedient even to the point of death on the cross. Crucifixion was such a shameful death that no Philippian (as a Roman citizen) would ever experience it. It reveals what sin must be in the sight of God, that His Son would suffer it as atonement for our sin. As a result, God the Father lifted Him up and exalted Him, giving Him the name of Yahweh, which is the name above all names, and proclaims that Jesus' character and person are above all others.

Ultimately, all of creation will acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus. Paul gave this description of Jesus to the Philippians to help them endure the hardships they were experiencing, to show them how to live in Christian unity in challenging times, to teach them how to treat each other in such a way that would foster unity within the body of Christ, and to follow Jesus' example of patient, humble obedience.

Icebreaker:

How often do you take an Uber or stay in an Airbnb?

What has this form of service come to mean to you in the last ten years or so?

What other forms of crowdsourcing are you aware of?

Application

- Can you see the principles of crowdsourcing applying to the local church? How do you feel about that?
- Uber drivers move people from here to there. How do you do that within the body of Christ? Are you willing and able to help people move from despair to faith, isolation to inclusion, guilt to forgiveness, fear to love, or division to unity? What do you think Gracepoint would look like if the congregation stepped out to help others in this way?

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- Peter wrote about the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2). How do you feel about being an active member of the Body of Christ for the growth of the Kingdom of God? What do you do to fulfill this role? If you are not active at the moment, what could you do?
- But Gracepoint is a large and active church. Some may come to sink into the congregation and not be noticed, benefiting from the Sunday service but not committing to any activity in the ministries Gracepoint offers. How can Gracepoint help such worshippers to see the church as a community where everyone does their part, rather than as a commodity for Sundays only? What can you do to help?
- Where can you see Gracepoint as a Covenant community, where people serve one another in love? Do you have a role in this? Why/why not?
- Do you see Gracepoint as a community of grace and transformation? How have you been transformed since you have been attending Gracepoint? What relationships have you built here? What do they mean to you?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the issues raised during your discussion time and any other needs of the group.

Service

Look for opportunities this week to put into action your role as one of the priesthood of all believers. Share with the group next week what happened.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/philippians-2/>



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