

Free to Shine

Philippians 2: 14 - 18

“Group Check-In:”

- Before we begin, please share any stories or experiences from Pastor Cory’s teaching from Week 3 regarding *True Freedom: Free to Love*.
 - Were you able to use Pastor Cory’s examples as models to modify your prayer life or to sacrifice for others or to love the people in front of you?
 - **Did you complete the “Live It Out” Mission Challenge?** How did the Holy Spirit convict you this week to make a change? What did you do, and what was the outcome? How did it influence you personally; and how did it affect others?

“Current Status” Questions: Get your group talking by asking both questions:

1. This week we will be discussing ways we can ‘let our light shine’ as believers in this world. Where would you say you stand on letting your light shine? Do people in your neighborhood or work know that you are a Christian? Are there specific ways that you demonstrate this in your interactions with them?
2. As believers, we are meant to stand out in this world. Sometimes, however, it is easier to blend in. Can you think of a time when you blended in to the culture around you? What impact did that have, on yourself as well as others?

Paul’s Example: Read Philippians 2: 14 – 18, then choose 3-4 of the following questions to discuss:

3. In verse 14, Paul tells the Philippians to ‘do everything without grumbling or arguing’, with some translations using the word ‘complaining’. What are some things that you complain about throughout a typical day? Do you complain frequently? What do your common complaints reveal about where your heart is at?
4. **Read verse 15.** Paul asks believers to become ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation’. Pastor Dave spoke about this phrase being a direct reference to the critical Israelites in the desert. How is our current generation similar to the Israelites in the desert? Can you give any specific examples?
5. Pastor Dave preached about where we get our source of truth. Think about where you, your family, and your friends receive your news. What is the danger of putting too much weight in these sources? Can you think of any specific examples in our culture?
6. Despite being in jail, Paul expresses joy in verse 17 in the ‘here and now’ of his situation. Pastor Dave mentioned that we often *postpone our joy*; that is, that we tell ourselves we will finally be happy when ____ happens. What are things from your life that have postponed your joy in the past? Are there things you are currently waiting for that you allow to postpone your joy?
7. What are some things that you have seen believers do that show who God is to the world? Pastor Dave mentioned actions such as tithing or mission work in his sermon. What are specific things that you have seen in your own experiences?

“LIVE IT OUT”: Encourage your group members to complete the “Live It Out” Mission challenge; then choose 1 additional question to end your group time:

8. In the week ahead, complete **“Live It Out” Mission # 4** (found on The Chapel’s Small Groups page). Next time you meet, check-in and hold each other accountable by sharing your stories!
9. Consider keeping track of the amount of instances that you complain one day this week. Pray at the day’s end about the things you either complained about or felt tempted to complain about, and ask God to strengthen you in these areas.
10. Paul found joy and peace in his present circumstances. This week, be mindful of the details of your day where God brings you joy in the moment. Think small things, such as nice weather or a good cup of coffee. Bring these items to God in thankful prayer.