

Philippians 2:1-11 The Fight: a new family Fintry, 25/6/2006, am

- Family service; presentation of books

United

Directions

- How good is your sense of direction?
- How well do you know Dundee & Fintry in particular?
 - see if anyone can follow my directions!!

Route One

- Start at the end of the church path:
 - turn right, and then left at the circle
 - take the second turning on the left
 - then cross right over at the cross-roads
 - stop at the next junction - whose house am I outside?
 - (Jim & Ethel Ferguson's!)

Route Two

- Start at the end of the church path:
 - turn left and keep going till you get to the circle
 - turn left again and go to the second circle
 - turn right, and go on to just after the second circle
 - turn left and then immediately left
 - at the circle, take the first exit, and then immediately sharp left
 - (Kingsway Retail Park, Tesco petrol station!)

Route Three

- Start at the end of the church path:
 - turn right
 - follow the road past the first circle, then take the next turn on the right
 - follow this road round to the circle
 - now turn right and keep going till you get to another circle
 - turn left, and just after the circle, on the left, is your destination!
 - (the church!!)

Be like minded

- Paul gave the church in Philippi some directions - we'll read the passage in a little while
 - but here is the first part of what he said!
 - *be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose* (Philippians 2:2)
 - what does **like-minded** mean?
 - what does **having the same love** mean?
 - what does **being one in spirit** mean?
 - what does **being one in ... purpose** mean?

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- Do those mean we all have to do exactly the same thing?
 - They are all about being united, pulling together, not falling out
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Selfless

- Paul's instruction to the Christians in Philippi was that they should be united together, have the same purpose
- **The question is HOW?**
 - (3) *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. (4) Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
- What do you think that means?!?
 - can we think of examples?
 - eg **thinking of the needs of those who like quiet in church, and of those who like noise?**
 - **we carry one another's burdens!**
- Could be practical - you need to use the car more than I do, I'll lend it to you!
 - could be about attitude - do we grudge someone the role they've got, the friendships they've got, the gifts they've received from God?
 - paying attention to the people around us, and their interests!
- **Hard - need Holy Spirit!**

Whose example?

- like Jesus...
- with Mary Magdalene (Miracle Maker), as just one example
- but supremely on the Cross!

Selfless action lead to unity!

- If we think of others as well as ourselves
 - indeed, if we consider them better than ourselves!
 - then we will end up united!