

Joy

THE BOOK OF
PHILIPPIANS

Joy: How to Have an Upside-Down Mindset

July 17th & 18th

Speaker: Pastor Joshua Symonette

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-19

[Lawrence Snyder](#)

[Jesse Owens](#) - 4 gold medals in the 1936 olympics

[Race](#)

Two Coaching Moments:

1. “It takes more than a pair of legs to win. You win up here.”
2. “You must learn to block it all out. It is all noise. They will love you or they will hate you. It does not matter.”

He knew his focus needed to be beyond present oppressive conditions. Jesse Owens was running against more than opponents on the track.

Apostle Paul in Philippians 3 is also talking about mindset and focus.

How we think, focus, & pursue informs how we live.

Paul is de-emphasizing

- Pride in the flesh
- Selfish ambition - we need to be thinking about other people more than ourselves.

[Philippians 3:14-20](#) - **How to have an upside down mindset**

(vs. 14) - Establishing the overarching goal

The goal of the target is God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

The prize is not anything Earthly but it's Heavenly.

(vs. 15) - "Therefore" (conjunction and an adverb). Paul is connecting the verses before **and** telling us how to move forward by highlighting three things:

1. Spiritually mature COGNITION.

We need a mature mindset, completeness or 'teleios'. In order to have completeness we need revelation from God.

Spiritually mature cognition looks upside down

- Love your enemies
- Put others before yourself - [The son of man came to serve and not to be served](#)

2. Christ-led COMMUNITY.

"Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us." (vs 17)

Both our intimate and our extended community should be intentional because it has influence over us.

We need the behavior of others to keep us on track.

Jonah Berger [Invisible Influence: Hidden Forces that Shape Behavior](#) – "nonconscious effect on our behavior, we are not aware that it is influencing us"

3. Prioritize Heavenly CITIZENSHIP.

“Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (vs 20)

“As citizens of Heaven live your lives worthy of the gospel”- [Philippians 1:27](#)

Verse 20 is **not**: we act as if we are waiting for what’s next. **This is a principle challenge - to have primary allegiance to Heaven.** To Jesus and not Cesar.

(vs. 21) Our full transformation will come from Jesus.

This idea of citizenship (belonging) influences how we live.

Civic engagement centered around Heaven first.

- Not the American dream first
- Not the individual accomplishments first.

Anything exalted above God and His Kingdom goes against His command and expectation.

Jesus prayed for His disciples - [John 17:16](#), [John 10:10](#)

[Philippians 3:18-19](#) - Paul says when we prioritize other stuff (ie. our own glory, our own appetite) we actually live as enemies of the Cross of Christ

How we should live:

1. Freedom of Speech - We won't use our words to tear people down.
2. Property Ownership - We will work hard to live in harmony and consider our neighbors.
3. Prioritizing this Kingdom citizenship doesn't abolish earthly citizenship, but it takes it further

We should live in such a way – that brings heaven to Earth, represents/reflects the Kingdom of Heaven, and it literally turns people's hearts toward Jesus

A PRAYER to PRAY: Our Father in Heaven teach us to take on an upside-down mindset. Let us find joy in living for You first and not in what the world tells us is the “right” or only way. Help us to use our words to build up and not to tear down. Help us to love our neighbors and live in harmony with everyone. Help us to love and not hate. Help us to see every opportunity as a chance to show generosity. We pray this all in Jesus' name amen.

For more info about following Jesus, go to ncc.re/followJesus

---To dig deeper:

Sermon Discussion Guide: ncc.re/discuss

NCC Daily: national.cc/daily

---ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sign up for a Group: ncc.re/groups

Upper Zoom (Tu, We, Th at 7:14am): ncc.re/upperzoom