

THE BIG IDEA: We can't live fully for God if we're living full of ourselves.

The Take-Off

Have you ever combined 2 really big things into one?

Sometimes that can happen when 2 businesses merge, or 2 families blend through marriage.

You go from 1 house to 2, 1 set of furniture to 2, 5 TVs to 10 and suddenly you realize that kind of addition isn't sustainable without spending A TON of money on storage!

So you begin the process of deciding what to get rid of

That's what we're going to discuss this morning: some things that we need to get rid of in order to be more "fully full" of God

The goal of the remix isn't to keep everything, but rather to keep the main thing

Full disclosure: this won't be the most exciting message because we're 'Mericans and we love 2 things: our stuff and our right to have our stuff.

As a result, any message - even from God's word - that challenges those 2 loves will tend to rub us the wrong way.

So I'm going to ask you to lean in rather than tune out, because while ALL of us love the promise of the full, abundant life in John 10:10, we won't necessarily love the Big Idea that screams at us from **Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)** today: **we can't live fully for God if we're living full of ourselves.**

Before we read our text, let's do a quick, simple experiment to illustrate the truth of that Big Idea

Take a deep breath and hold it while I count to 5

Now, without exhaling, take another deep breath

It's hard to do, right? Some might say impossible.

The point here is that we want more of God but often without emptying more of ourselves first.

John 3:30 records this. John the Baptist said clearly, "He (Jesus) must become greater; I must become less."

What we're going to see in Philippians 2 is that the FULLNESS of the gospel is only seen when we are willing to EMPTY ourselves

We're also going to identify 3 specific plugs that must be pulled in order to empty ourselves and make room for Him

1. The first plug: POWER

- a. Before I tell you the first plug, take a look at a keyword in verse 2: "complete"
- b. Something was missing and it wasn't anything Paul had mentioned before that word. In fact, "if" is better translated as "since"
- c. Since you have all the things in v. 1, top it off by doing all the things in vv. 3-4
- d. I could preach a whole series on the things in vv. 3-4, but Paul summed them all up by pointing us to what Jesus did and calling us to do the same
- e. What did Jesus do? He "made himself nothing" - v. 7 - it means "emptied"
- f. Jesus emptied himself of 3 things and I think that we need to, as well, if we're to have his attitude (v. 5)
- g. One clarification: Jesus didn't pull these plugs because he sinned in them, but we probably will
- h. **The first plug is POWER** and it's found in v. 6
- i. Jesus had the power of equality with God and he released his grip on it
- j. So many in the church fight for power and fight to keep power
- k. The example of Jesus was to pull the plug of power - we need to, as well, if we're going to be fully empty
- l. The irony is that when we pull the plug on power and empty ourselves of it, guess what God fills us with?
- m. You guessed it! POWER!!
 - Acts 1:8 / you will receive POWER
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 / God has given us POWER
 - 1 Cor. 6:14 / God raised us up in his POWER
 - Ephesians 3:20 / His POWER is at work within us

2. The second plug: POSITION

- a. **The second plug is POSITION** and it's seen in v. 7
- b. Jesus pulled the plug of power and then he pulled the plug of position
- c. He took the position of a servant

- d. This is one of those ideals that we typically give the “yes head nod” to without really letting it sink in, but the Bible has a lot to say about emptying ourselves through serving:
 - Mark 10:45 / Jesus came to SERVE
 - Galatians 5:13 / we use our freedom to SERVE
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 / FAITHFUL SERVING identifies us as followers of Jesus
 - Matthew 20:26 / the pathway to greatness in the kingdom is SERVING
- e. What happens when we pull the plug of position and empty ourselves?
- f. Right again! God exalts!
- g. We know from verse 9 that God did this for Jesus.
- h. 1 Peter 5:6 / God also does that for us

3. The third plug: PRIDE

- a. **The third plug is PRIDE** and it may be the toughest
- b. Verse 8 shows us that Jesus was humble in ALL things
- c. In some translations, it says he humbled himself, even death on a cross
- d. That means that there was no point on the way down where Jesus drew a line and said, “That’s enough.” That’s what Paul was saying by “even death on a cross!”
- e. Where have you and I drawn the line? Where have we said to God, “I’ll humble myself in this but no more?”

The Landing

Which of the plugs have you allowed to remain?

Remember, we can’t live fully for God if we’re living full of ourselves.

But God wants to change that!

As D.L. Moody said, “God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.”

When we pull the plugs and allow ourselves to be fully emptied, God is ready to fill us with himself.

So pull the plugs and place yourself empty before God today.

You will be filled!

Let’s pray