

Spiritual Fullness in Christ Colossians 2: 6-7

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Rooted:

Improving your serve

The act of selfless service and contribution to your local church, family and community.

1. Philippians 2:3–8

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, **by taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

1. So we are asking 3 questions today:
 - a. What would others (those closest to you) say you are always doing?
 - b. Are we going to be spectators or contributors?
 - c. Who is the G.O.A.T.?

Ok so lets start with the 1st of our questions.

2. What would others (those closest to you) say you are always doing?

a. Continuous

What is a word for something that always happens? **Continuous.**

(talk about continuous).....

Similar: continual, uninterrupted, unbroken, constant, steady, solid, unceasing, relentless, endless, perpetual, everlasting, OR ALWAYS

What are the things that you / we always do? The question is this :
What would others say you are always doing? If somebody was to describe you with the word always, what would they say? What would others say you are always doing? They might say you are always encouraging, They may say you are always finding fault / discouraging. They might say you are always finding good. Maybe, you are always working or maybe you are always working out. Maybe they would say you are always staring at your phone. The question is what would others say you are always doing. Would you be always about our fathers business????

b. Our greatness or his?

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

So how many things are we to do for our “greatness” ? It is pretty clear the answer is all of it, **everything**, I must be the GOAT at all things I do right???? You do not have to be the best at whatever it is you just need to show up and be ready to serve. You could be really good at something or really bad at a particular thing, its just the matter of your heart, why are you doing this service? Where is your heart in all of it?

Paul tells us pretty clearly to do what, NOTHING from selfish ambition, how many things? Say it with me Nothing!!! How often do we measure up to that? 123 not it..... What about the 2nd thing conceit? Now that I have your attention Men, My_____camper, boat, truck, house, bank account is better than yours. (side note you own nothing, it all belongs to God. You might think your talents got you somewhere, but news flash you brought nothing, it all belongs to Jesus.) So always put down your ambition right. NO, selfish ambition is the problem. Be ambitious just not for what you want, but rather put down the pride and serve others. Be ambitious and serve in your church, your family, and your community.

So always serve with humility. Not because you have to, not because it's a command, but because you honestly want to put others 1st, you want to always put others before yourself. You are fearfully and wonderfully made, and so are they, image bearers of Christ. If you and I

can look at someone and see Jesus, they will always appear greater than us. Stop looking in the mirror or your selfie machine. We just get confused when all we do is self promote and forget about God's order of things. We tend to lift ourselves 1st and not Jesus. We may have him on the list somewhere down the line but not in the position he has commanded. Make Jesus BIG and all of those that bear his image.

c. Having a common mindset

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

So, here Paul tells us it is ok / natural to have our "OWN INTEREST", for me this is a great relief. (I am more interested in myself / my stuff) We can always be about our stuff, it's easy to be consumed by the busy monsterBut as important as we think these things are, and maybe they are, we must continue to always look at the interest of others. Other people's concerns are important and many times much more so than yours.

We can get so concerned with our own stuff that we do not see the great need of our brothers and sisters around us. Also we see here that it is a collective mind, the mind of Christ, together we are better. There is one body with many parts just as Warren taught us last week in I Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12:12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ

(We need each other, (we need nose hair), where I can be a toe nail, maybe you can be a big toe.)

The point is we are in this together. Look at this verse from Matthew 20:26-28

26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28

In the preceding verses Jesus is asked by the mother of Zebedee if her sons can sit on the right and left of Jesus in his kingdom. This upsets the disciples they go right into “look at me, look what I have done, certainly I deserve that dignified seat” and Jesus explains to the ten that it does not matter who sits on the left or right it is appointed by God. He tells them **To be great you must serve, and to be first you must be a slave! And if you want it all, lay down your life.**

We all must have the mind of Christ *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,”*

So what are we “always doing” ? What will those closest say that you are relentless about?

Second question

3. Are we going to be spectators or contributors?

a. Spectator : a close observer; someone who looks at something (such as an exhibition of some kind.)

We are taught to be spectators. Lets talk about the movies.....We go to a movie and the whole experience is created for us to be comfortable. We judge the music, the acting, if it is a good story, is it a funny story. Does the story move you emotionally? Always evaluating how well you were entertained. When you leave you will most likely talk to the person or people that you were there with critiquing the whole experience. I mean the whole thing. Was the popcorn the right temperature? Was there enough butter on the popcorn or was there too much? Was the theater too hot or too cold? Were the seats clean, did they recline enough or too much? Was it too loud or could you not hear well enough? Was the movie too long, too short?

This has been going on since the beginning of time..... Many different things to watch and not be part of
(Are you not entertained?)

Unfortunately we tend to bring this attitude and thought process into our churches, our families, and communities. We want to sit back and watch not get involved in this mess "life" that God has called us to. This church, our family, and community need us to be contributors . What is a contributor? What does it mean to contribute? Contribution means that you are someone who takes part in your church, your family, and your community.

It's like watching your favorite sports team, I mean it is funny. We go to a game, sit, stand, cheer, do all the things a good fan does. Then when the contest is over the critiquing begins. We act like we have something to do with it, comments like we really called a great play. We had no answer for #23. We can't be stopped, we are the champs, we we we News flash you were not involved.

Jesus is sending us ALL out to be participants. We are to step out of the stands and onto the field. We are to join the battle that is going on and we are to do so with a very clear objective.

For some, what you do as a participant will look different from the next person. Not everyone will have the same role. There will not be hundreds of quarterbacks out on the field. Each person's talents and gifts are different and therefore their contribution will look different.

b. Jesus did not want to be the greatest.

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself,

Wow, what a statement, Christ who sat on the right hand of the father, was at the beginning of the world. He had a front row seat to the movie, creation, with the best chair, the perfect popcorn (butter and salt perfect ratio), the right temperature in the theater, he even loved the music. God's perfect son..... Think about that, he is perfect..... perfect..... Jesus knew that he was not, is not, and will not be, and that is God. God's place could not be taken hold of, he had nothing to gain and he emptied his own desire and ambition. He said to my God, my father be the glory, not my will but God's will be done. What a place to come from that deep down in his being he put God's plan first. As a being with free will, he chose to come down from heaven and die, give up any of his own desires, and die. He decided to contribute to God's perfect plan, not to sit back and watch. He put himself into service for all of us!!!!

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28

3rd and Last question

4. Who is the G.O.A.T.

a. Following the example of the G.O.A.T. Jesus!!!

The fact is it's not Kobe, Bird, or Lebron it is always Jordan..... Hahahaha

The word of God says we are to be selfless not selfish. We live in a world that we are taught to be selfish. We are taught to self promote. All the socials prompt you to talk about how great you are. You need to be the G.O.A.T. We can always find a way to serve our own glory, or we can always find a way to serve God's glory. Lets make God great in our lives, let's choose to see how great he is. He is the GOAT and somehow we forget that. I must be super dense, like the elevator is stuck in the basement dense, because I make great of me and little of HIM. My concerns come 1st, I am most important, my needs are greatest, my desires are #1. I am the GOAT!!!!!!!!!! In my life. When I decide that I am first, the whole order is broken.

Look at the approach of Christ.....

by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Servant, someone hired to do a task- - - a servant

Jesus made a choice, he made a decision, he was not forced. I think that sometimes we might think of Jesus as though "well he is God's son he

had to do it" then we get in our heads the whole image of the trinity. Who did what then our brain just pops and we figure well it was God's plan the whole time. Jesus did not really have a choice.

who was born in real life, in the flesh, in the likeness of men. Interesting statement form of a servant / in the likeness of man?????? Was man created just to serve, are we all servants from the start? In human form, a real human man. I believe this might have been a downgrade "being found in human form". He was willing to make so much less of himself that he would be human. Think about it, a perfect being, one that could do anything, deciding to be human.....

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We look forward to the day that we shed our weak bodies.

Jesus in heaven looking at becoming human:

he said hey Father God go ahead and give me one of those human bodies, and lives

God's response well what features do you want:

Jesus: I will take joy, happiness, love, a high IQ, a perfect build (you know muscle without exercise), super high metabolism so that I can just eat anything, a really attractive look..... Maybe the son of a king or someone really important you know kind of what I have become accustomed to up here.

God: hold on Jesus we kind of need you to fit in, we will give some of those things but Isaiah 53:2 says:

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

So Jesus came down and took on human life, just one of us. All the same joy, but also all the same pain. He had to live just as we do, he had

no special advantage. HE WAS HUMAN, and he chose to be. He chose to live among us and serve us with the ultimate sacrifice, His death, burial, and resurrection.

5. Applying the word

- a. Who are you always?
 1. The people closest to you, what would they say you are always doing?
- b. Are you a spectator? Or are you a contributor?
 1. If you just show up that's a start, but you / we must find a way or ways to get involved.
 2. Jesus wants you in the game.
- c. Who is the greatest in your life? Who is the G.O.A.T?
 1. I know this is a really tough one, but who do you say that he is? And do you mean it?
 2. Can you put down the temptation to be the greatest person in your story?
 3. Is it your story?

Benediction ideas:

Jesus says that the greatest among us will serve : **Matthew 23:11-12**
The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

But Jesus teaches us to do exactly the opposite. ***Take up your cross and follow me. Deny thyself and follow me (Matt 16:24)***