

## Grow Group Questions • Philippians 2:12-16 • JoyFull

1. Read Philippians 2:12-16. **What is most challenging in these verses? Encouraging? New?**
  - a. **What does this section of scripture tell us about God? What does it tell us about humanity/us?**
2. On Sunday, Parker explained the differences between Justification vs Sanctification. **Before the message, do you feel like you had a good understanding of those concepts, or were they new to you? How would you explain what they are and the differences?**
  - a. **Does God require us to change as a pre-requisite to salvation? Why or why not?**
  - b. Parker defined Justification as Freedom from the *Power* of Sin, *Paid* for by Christ. Our repentance and faith take hold of this gift, but they do not earn it. **Do you agree with that definition? Why or why not?**
  - c. Parker defined Sanctification as freedom from the *presence* of sin. The *process* of being saved from sin's presence. **Do you agree with that definition? Why or why not?**
  - d. **Do you think the difference between justification and sanctification matters? Why or why not?**
  - e. **Do you think Paul is talking about justification or sanctification in Philippians 2:12-18? Why would that matter?**
3. Paul tells us to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” in verse 12. **What do you think that means? Why should a fear of God motivate us to not sin?**
  - a. Read John 15:11-17. **How can we be afraid and tremble before God and still love him? Do you think love/friendship and fear/trembling are incompatible with each other? Why or why not?**
  - b. **How can we feel fear, trembling, friendship, and love towards God at the same time?**
  - c. **How does Jesus’ definition of friendship in John 15:13-14 help reconcile friendship and fear together?**
4. Paul instructs the Philippians to not “grumble or dispute.” **Do you struggle with either of those things? Why are grumbling and disputing ultimately against what God wants for us?**
  - a. **Do you think “grumbling and disputing” are linked to pride? Why or why not?**
  - b. **How would not “grumbling and disputing” set us apart from the world?**
  - c. **Do you think that Christians are doing a good job of looking set apart in the world right now? How can each of us as individuals improve?**
5. **What did Paul mean by “the word of life”?**
  - a. **How would “holding fast to the word of life” enable the Philippians to remain joyful as they obeyed God?**