



Key Points :

- Key point 1. **Assume the best in others** (Agree wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one mind and purpose. [Phil. 2:2])
 - Instead of jumping to conclusions, becoming offended and complaining about others, Paul encourages the Philippians to lean into agreement.
- Key point 2. **Prioritise other preferences** (Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves [Phil. 2:3])
 - We will all have our personal preferences for how we do things - the issue only occurs when we universalise them as the 'best way' of doing anything. To work towards unity we have to prefer one another above our own preferences.
- Key point 3. **Take a listening stance** (Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. [Phil. 2:4])
 - So often our cultures can create hidden barriers to those who are different from the 'majority'. If the church is to reflect Christ's humility and care for the other, we need to intentionally listen to those who have different perspectives from our own and be ready to change in order to break those barriers.

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. Do you think our world is becoming more and more divided? Why do you think this?

Start thinking

2. What people groups do I find myself becoming judgemental about. Why is this?

Start sharing

3. What might it look like for Springfield to become even more united during this time of transition? How might we become aware of, and seek to dismantle, dividing walls that separate people who are not part of the 'majority culture'? Is this even important?

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, open our eyes to the perspectives of those around us, especially those that may be different. May you help us to humbly set aside our own preferences to be able to think of others more highly than ourselves.

Start doing

5. Ask God where you are easily offended and why this might be. When you are talking with others this week, notice if your conversation ever becomes divisive or critical and consider why this is. Intentionally speak with someone you wouldn't normally this week.