Goodness and Selfishness
Series: Fruit of the Spirit
September 13, 2015

INTRODUCTION
The Apostle Paul lists the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 – "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law*." Today, we're going to be looking at the quality and fruit of goodness from the book of Philippians.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What stands out to you? If you were to describe the content of this passage in on word, what would that be? Why did you choose that word?

2. What is "goodness" defined by you? What would culture define "goodness" as? Are they alike/different? In what ways?

3. Goodness=selflessness. How does Jesus demonstrate this quality in the passage found in Philippians? What is Paul's exhortation to the Church? In what ways is it a struggle for us to emulate him in this way?

4. Do you ever find it a struggle to rejoice for others? Do you ever find it easier to want "best" for you and your family and maybe see others as competition? In what ways can we build each other up and seek the goodness of the whole Church Body and not just ourselves?

5. In what ways have you been selfish? It is easy to be blind to our weak areas. Perhaps it is seeking out more attention than you need, or maybe not paying enough attention to the spiritual well being of others. Share and confess in what ways you have lacked in this area of goodness, and ask Christ to fill what is lacking.

CONCLUSION

Not only is Jesus Christ our ultimate example of goodness and selflessness, he also is our power to overcome our own selfishness and pride. Let's reflect on the cross, on the mystery of the God become man, who bore our sins and now calls us to walk in His Spirit. We are encouraged to walk as one unified body, to selflessly look for the good of one another and not just keep our eyes on ourselves. Let the Church keep on striving for this, walking and seeking God as we strive to do so.