



## LOOKING OTHERWARD: How God Sees the World

---

***Philippians 2:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10***

### OPEN

Fifteen years ago, the attacks of 9/11 shook our nation (and the world).

- As you observe your life and our culture, what has changed over the last fifteen years?
- Has the way we view “others” changed in any way? How so?

In your estimation, are we (Christians) doing a good job of loving others? Explain your response.

### ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Read Philippians 2:1-13.

- In 2:1, the Apostle Paul lists may “if” statements. Read them again. What is Paul trying to describe to those hearing these words?
- With whom are we to be *like-minded*...having the same kind of love? Why?
- What are we supposed to be doing for THE OTHERS in verses 3-4? Why would we do this?
- Do you think the gospel is connected to the *Others* (2:12-13)? Explain.
- Any other observations from this passage that seems significant to you?

## DISCUSS

How do you respond the quote below from the weekend message?

*We've increasingly seen Others as obstacles and opponents, when – if we are Christians – we are meant to regard Others as the object of our life. This is why at this critical moment in our country and our church, our greatest need is to again meet JESUS.*

As you consider the Philippians passage (as well as 1 Peter 4:10), what is the essence and purpose of the Christian life?

Think about an average week in your life. Who are “others” you encounter on a regular basis?

If you are going to be a person (and if we are going to be a church) that lives an “otherward” life, then it will entail us embracing certain practices that allow us to live like Jesus in this world.

<b>OUTGOING</b>	Otherward people are outgoing—looking to, seeing, and recognizing others.
<b>TREASURE-SEEKING</b>	Otherward people dig for the good stuff (the stories, joys, hopes, and pains) in the lives of those they encounter.
<b>HOSPITABLE</b>	Otherward people give time, table, and nurture relationships with others.
<b>EMPATHETIC</b>	Otherward people identify with what is going on in the lives of others.
<b>RESOURCE-FULL</b>	Otherward people are sources of help and connections for others.
<b>SELF-SACRIFICING</b>	Otherward people put others before themselves.

As you look at these practices, share which ones come easy to you and which are harder for you to practice with *the others* in your life. What are the “other-barriers” we must break through to live these practices?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Pray for on *another* in your group and encourage one another in the weeks to come.
- Pray for the name(s) of “others” in your life right now that you sense God calling you to engage in some way this week.

## NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on how you were impacted, encouraged, and/or challenged by this message and study.
- Read and reflect on the Scripture passages for this study.
- What is one action you will take this week to engage an “other” in your life?