

SERMON OUTLINE

THE 'JUST ME AND JESUS' MYTH (AND WHAT ACTUALLY WORKS)

ERIC FERRIS | DECEMBER 28

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

1. That little "you" is _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. How to work with _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. ICEBREAKER: What's your favorite regional word or phrase? (Examples: "y'all," "youse guys," "yinz," "pop vs. soda," etc.) Where did you pick it up, and do you still use it?

2. BIBLE TEXT: When you first heard Philippians 1:6 ("he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"), did you naturally think of it as God's work in you personally or in us as a church? Why do you think you heard it that way?

3. CULTURE CHECK: The sermon described American culture as more individualistic ("What's good for me is good for me") versus other cultures that think more collectively ("What's good for us is good for me"). Where do you see this individualism showing up in how people approach faith or church?

4. THREE PICTURES: The sermon gave three analogies for the church: Body, Family, and Temple. Which one resonates most with you right now, and why?

5. HONEST MOMENT: Have you ever felt like you could follow Jesus just fine on your own without really being involved in a church? What appeals about that approach, and what might be the problem with it?

6. BIBLE TEXT: Philippians 2:12-13 says to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you." How does the word "cooperation" help you think about how to do this?

7. THE INTERVIEWS: The sermon included stories from Ed & Mary (serving), Joe & Lindsay (premarital counseling), and Ed (tithing). Which story challenged or encouraged you most, and what did you relate to in their experience?

8. RESISTANCE: When you think about serving, giving, joining a community group, or making weekend worship consistent, which one feels like the biggest obstacle for you personally? What's behind that resistance?

9. INTEGRATION: The sermon said "when you start separating from or minimizing God's church, you should be very suspicious that you're moving in a bad direction." Do you agree or disagree? Have you ever experienced a season of pulling away from church? What happened?

10. NEXT STEP: Looking at the practical ways to get involved mentioned at the end (Rooted, community groups, care night, serving teams, consistent weekend worship), what's one specific action you could take in the next month to move from "me" thinking to "we" thinking in your faith?