



Faith and ... Privilege

Date: 4th August 2019

Speakers: Tony Bunker & Ruth Page

Key Verses: Philippians 2:1-11

Talk Summary:

- Privilege is unearned advantage and access to power and resources that some people have and others don't just because of who they are. It's what you get for just being you, and helps explain why the world isn't fair.
- It is driven by many things but in particular our ethnicity (where there is white privilege), our gender (male privilege), our physical bodies (privilege associated with not being ill or disabled), our sexuality (straight privilege) and to some extent our religious beliefs (historically Christian privilege in the west).
- For a stark visual representation of the impact of privilege see BuzzFeed's 'The Privilege Walk' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD5f8GuNuGQ>
- People with privilege are often blind to it or defensive about it ('I worked hard for what I got'), or else feel guilty ('I didn't ask for this, but how can I change anything')
- Christ has a response to this, The Message translation of Phil 2 : 6-7 says "he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave", he did this so we can know the 'priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus' (Phil 3:8, Amplified Bible)
- We are called to refocus our privilege away from our own interests onto others, examples of people who have done this include Saul/Paul in Acts, Jean Vanier and L'Arche supporting people with learning difficulties, and William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect ending slavery and others reforms.
- How is God calling us to refocus our privilege? This will probably be on a much smaller scale than these examples, but will nevertheless require us to humble ourselves and may have implications for our time, money and possessions.

- Remember to ask for God's leading in this and that the Holy Spirit can be extremely creative. Are you being called to start something new or support an existing project?

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?