

Not In It to Win It

Not In It to Win It ... Christians are called to play the game differently than everyone else in the world. We're called to be in the game to lose it all for the sake of everyone else. This is such a countercultural issue – unless you're being paid to take a dive or to throw the game, no one wants to be a loser. And yet, that's what real followers of Jesus Christ are called to be. Losers. (The thing is, that doesn't sit very well with me either ...)

Philippians 2:5–8

1. Americans don't like to _____.
2. Jesus was in it to lose ... his _____, his _____, and his _____.
3. The word of the day is _____ for the sake of _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll read a dozen chapters of the *101 Ways You Can Help Grow Your Church* book: <https://raytowncc.org/101-ways/>
- I'll choose one idea per week and practice it at least three times during that week
- I'll invite a friend, relative, or acquaintance to join me for the *Leadership Is* sermon series (Don't forget we have FOUR services and FIVE locations: On Site, YouTube, Facebook, Website, Roku TV)

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Not In It to Win It

Scripture: Philippians 2:5–8

Introduction: It's counter intuitive to even consider the notion of losing as a way of life. Literally, every bone in our bodies, every neuron in our brain rebels against that idea. Our culture rejects that and our biology does too. But then Paul reminds us that Jesus-followers are meant to be different – we're to have the mind of Christ – and that means that winning is losing, and losing is winning.

1. Read Philippians 2:5–8. Make a list of the things that models what the “mindset of Christ Jesus” looks like.
2. The passage says that Jesus had the “nature of God” and then took on the nature of a servant as a human. What do you think is the difference between having the nature of God and the nature of a human?
3. Dr. Bill pointed out that most Bible's soften the Greek word *doulos* which literally means slave, but is generally translated as servant. In your mind's eye, what's the difference between a servant and a slave? Why do you think it's significant that Jesus was willing to become a slave?
4. What do you think Paul meant when he said that Jesus made himself to be “nothing”?
5. You may remember that when Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate during his trials, he refused to defend himself. And, according to Jewish law, he probably could have defended his way out of the execution. Why do you think Jesus was willing to lose it all, even though he could have won?
6. Dr. Bill spoke about how “Christians” have politicized many social issues, especially over the last few years. How does Christianity lose in the eyes of our culture when we're in it to win?
7. In what areas of your life have you been more focused on winning rather than loving? (And what are you going to do about accessing the mind of Christ Jesus instead?)