

The New Humanity: Getting Personal

READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Monday, 6/9/08 – Read Philippians 1:3-11

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: God's New Humanity is not just about the way groups of people relate to each other; it's also deeply personal. It's about the way we relate to people close to us -- all the time, every day. Paul's letter to the Philippians has a very personal "feel" to it. But this feeling comes from something deeper than fondness or personal attraction. The Philippians were for Paul companions in the "sharing of the gospel" (verse 5). ... Who are your spiritual companions? How deeply connected to them do you feel? ... Today write a prayer for these special people in your life.

Tuesday, 6/10/08 – Read Philippians 2:1-4

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: How do we work intentionally on our relationships with people close to us? There are several good suggestions in today's reading. But look especially at verse 4. Read it again. Sometimes we get so focused on "our own interests" that we don't notice what's happening with the other person. In your conversations and interactions today, will you intentionally focus on what's happening with other people? That's how we build solid relationship within God's New Humanity!

Wednesday, 6/11/08 – Read Philippians 2:5-11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: New Testament scholar Paul McReynolds has said that verse 5 should be literally translated: "Think like Jesus." Read today's passage again. How did Jesus think? What does the passage tell us? ... In your life, in your activities today, how would you "think like Jesus"? How would "thinking like Jesus" help build the New Humanity in your relationships?

Thursday, 6/12/08 – Read Philippians 4:8-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: When you think of others, how do you think about them? Do your thoughts carry you off in unhealthy directions? When you get angry, do your thoughts keep your anger inflamed? Do you nurse grudges? ... Today's reading encourages us to discipline our thinking and to focus our thinking positively. Sure, we get into conflict with people close to us. But letting our thoughts dwell on the negative can be destructive. What difference do you think it would make if you focused your thoughts the way today's reading suggests?

Friday, 6/13/08 – Read Romans 12:9-13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: How do you show honor to the people in your life? Do you write affirmative notes? Do you tell people when you think they've done well? Do you brag on them to

others? ... When you compete with others, is the goal of competition to prove superiority? Look at verse 10: outdo one another, compete with one another, in showing honor! Try that today.

Saturday, 6/14/08 – Read Deuteronomy 10:17-21

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today's reading from the Hebrew scriptures affirms that God "loves the strangers" and goes on to instruct us: "You shall also love the stranger." ... How do you react when you meet someone you don't know? Do you become cautious and self-protective? Or are you eager to get acquainted? Our personality styles have something to do with our initial reactions, of course. But God is urging us into relationship -- even with the stranger -- on behalf of God's New Humanity. What's your reaction to this? Make some notes for yourself.

Sunday, 6/15/08 – Read Psalm 146:5-10

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Read back over these verses from Psalm 146. Notice the words that identify people -- words like the oppressed, the hungry, the blind, the bowed down. Can you think of someone in your life who fits one of these descriptions? Think about that person. Are there barriers that keep you separated from that person? ... God's New Humanity includes both you and that person. Will you reach across the barrier? Will you reach out to that person?

My Faith Journal, June 8, 2008

The New Humanity #6

Strange People Out There

What do I want to remember out of today's message?

What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?