



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION  
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

## **Not My Own**

**Acts 20:17-24**

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***March 7, 2021***

In his farewell message to the elders from Ephesus, Paul gives us a short course on what it means to live with an orientation that is geared toward others, and, more importantly, to show us what the driving force is behind that orientation.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.  
<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among your-selves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... Philippians 2:4-5

We need to do life before others and with others (20:18) – “You yourselves know...”

We need to defer to others, be broken-hearted in our compassion for others, and be willing to suffer for others (20:18-21)

We must not discriminate against others (20:21)

The driving force behind an others-oriented life:  
My life is not my own; it belongs to Jesus Christ.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Have you ever thought about whether people would characterize you as an introvert or an extrovert? If so, how do you see yourself? With scripture in mind, what are some of the potential strengths and weaknesses that could apply to introverts and extroverts?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-7. What are the commands in this passage for believers and what is the basis for those commands? Is there something in these verses that you found especially convicting, maybe an area where you struggle with disunity or conceit?
3. There may be cultural differences that made it easier for first-century believers to do life before and with other believers than it is for us today. What are one or two ways that you can be more intentional about being closer and more transparent with other believers?
4. Do you feel compassion for other believers who are struggling with sin, temptation, false teaching, or disunity? If you think of someone, take a moment to pray for him or her, and to ask God if there's anything you can do to exhort or encourage.
5. What scares you about being willing to suffer for others? How can we be sure God's grace and strength will be sufficient if we do not shrink back from speaking His truth to difficult people?
6. Read First Corinthians 6:19-20. What does this mean, and in what area(s) does this convict you?