

Fellowship (Philippians 1:1—11)

1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- What does it mean to be servants of Christ? (We are at His command.)
- Saints- **Every believer/holy and set apart.** (What happens when we are saved)
- Saints, deacons, and elders/overseers/pastors. (The entire church by office.)
- Fellowship- much more than just friendship. (“In Christ”- we have this in common and it draws us close together.) *This is frustrating when a church can’t realize this. Otherwise just a club, or a place to hang out.*
- So, while Paul is away (prison), the church at Philippi is very close to him.

1. Fellowship as we think of each other- When you find that others in the church are thinking of you, does it encourage you? Do you think of your brothers and sisters?

3-6

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- a.) What is a major factor of a successful church? (Partners in the gospel)
- b.) Saved in Christ/Transforms us as we abide in Him/As we serve Him, He works in us!
 - If we are truly partners in the gospel, we have true fellowship. (Contentious bodies do not have a partnership in the gospel.)
- c.) A church in one accord- saints, deacons, pastors/elders.
- d.) “In Christ” is the center of this book Philippians. (Christ is the link to proper fellowship.)
- e.) He was thankful for their **partnership. Their fellowship in Christ.**

Koinonia-

John 17:20–23 (ESV)

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- God completes His work in the lives that are “in Christ”.
 - What God brought me here to Midland for, what He made this church for, what He saved us for.
2. Fellowship in Christ- (The saints of God were Paul’s family)

7-8

It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

a.) Is Christian love phony? (Not when truly “in Christ”, truly “saints”.)

1 John 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

Romans 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

b.) Fruit of the Spirit kind of stuff! (Bound together in the gospel.) Show me a church that loves each other, and I will show you a church that is about the gospel.

c.) He “**yearned**” for them with all affection. (In his bowels/deep inside)

d.) Not sure this is even understood these days very much, where we just want to be left alone.

3. Fellowship and maturing together- (Not a blind love, but love with our brains and our discernment.)

9-11

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

a.) not doormats, but mature behavior learned, and spiritual discernment.

b.) Certain individuals would like to take advantage of this, but this changes with a mature/grown in Christ, and discerning body. (Not here as a local charity/Church for everyone.)

c.) He prayed that they would grow in the Word and Holy Spirit discernment. (protective)

d. He prayed for their testimony to be intact.

Conclusion

Do we build each other up? Do we live in a way that if Christ returns it will be just fine? (Genuine articles.)

Filled with the fruit of righteousness.

John 15:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- Jesus produces fruit- live for Him, for the gospel, making disciples, together, praying and worship in our lifestyles!
- Fellowship beyond just friendship.