

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Series: Joy in the Journey

Sermon Title: Thanks for the Generosity

Sermon Text: Philippians 1: 1-11

Sermon Date: March 10, 2013

Summary: Chapter 1 of Philippians includes Paul's usual warm greeting of grace and peace, and he starts his correspondence with a warm thanks for their support of his ministry. He loves this church, and this is expressed here like in no other letter in the New Testament. He expresses his love and his thanks, and he prays for their progress in the gospel. The big ideas of this text are around Paul's love for them, and what love in them should look like as they grow.

Discussion questions

1. It is clear Paul loves these Philippians. How does this love show itself in this passage?
2. How were the Philippians partners with Paul in the gospel? What role did Paul play? What role did the Philippians play in the partnership?
3. We see something of Paul's prayer life twice in this text. What do we learn about his prayer life? What about his prayer life is do-able for us? What could we do to follow his example?
4. How does God begin a work in our lives? How did he begin a work in your life? Why is Paul so confident that it will be completed in them? Can we have the same confidence about ourselves? Why or why not?
5. What means does God use to bring His work to completion? Do we have any role to play in this completion? Or is it all His work?
6. Paul seems comfortable enough expressing his love for these church members. And the way he expresses his love is remarkable in verses 7-8. Why does he love them so much? Is this kind of expressiveness something we should do more of with one another in the church family? If yes, why don't we do it more often? And how do we emulate Paul in this?
7. Talk about the prayer of verses 9-11. What does it mean that our love should abound with knowledge? With discernment? What does it mean to approve what is excellent? What is the converse of approving what is excellent?
8. What does it mean to be filled with the fruit of righteousness? What kind of righteousness is Paul talking about? Where does that righteousness come from? And how do we get it?
9. If our love were to abound as Paul prayed, how would our church life be different? How would your home life be different? Your work life...?
10. If we live this way, God will be glorified and praised. If we lived more for the glory of God, how would our lives be different?