

Unity

Philippians 1:1-11

1. Position Before God vs. 1-2

Although Paul was an apostle, he chose to emphasize his position that every follower of Christ has before God; slave of Jesus Christ. This united status before God is not a choice, as every person who becomes a saint is by Father God choosing to lavish His grace and peace upon each one through Jesus' choosing to die on the cross for our sins.

Through Jesus death and resurrection, we have become slaves in Christ; responding to God's love through obeying Him in all things. We now serve God and not sin. We are united together as Holy in Christ, not something we have chosen, but through God choosing to restore our relationship with Him.

Questions:

- What are the excuses that we sometimes give in why we should not live in unity?
- We are united together in Christ because of what Jesus has done for us. How has God empowered you to live in unity with one another?

2. Partnership For The Gospel vs.3-8

Although Paul was imprisoned, he found joy in the partnership he experienced with the church of Philippi; Philippians' practical support of Paul's efforts to proclaim the gospel and meet the needs of other believers. It is God who brought them into fellowship with himself through Christ, as God established them and will maintain them until the end.

Our joy is found in the partnerships for the gospel that God has given us through the church family. It is God who brought us into fellowship with one another through Christ, as God established us and will maintain us until the end.

Question:

- What does practical support look like in partnering with one another for the gospel?
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "**10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

What ability or gift has God given you that you naturally tend to do or desire to do? Let us know, so we can be aware in how God has wired you. A hard copy of the serving survey is available at the Discipleship Pathway Table, or scan the QR Code to fill out the digital survey.



3. Perfecting Love Vs. 9-11

Paul's prayer for the Church of Philippi is that Christ's love would capture their minds, refocus their will so that they will use their knowledge to reflect God's wisdom; the needed discernment in how to live rightly for God in their day-to-day life.

We are united because of God's love. We need to pray for one another that Christ's love would capture our minds, refocus our will so that we will use our knowledge to reflect God's wisdom.

Reflection: Take some time and reflect on Paul's prayer for the Church of Philippi (vs. 9-11). Using the theme from Paul's prayer, take some time to pray for yourself in others.