



## **Philippians 1:1-11 – Joy In Loneliness**

May 3, 2020

1. The world is a lonely place.
2. Sin creates loneliness.
3. Paul was lonely. He had a stay-at-home order.
4. Friendships often don't take away loneliness. They are based on proximity and affinity.

## 5. Gospel partnerships give us joy because they are built on the common mission of sharing the gospel.

*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. Philippians 1:3–5 (ESV)*

A. Gospel partnerships are about mission, not just friendship.

B. The longer gospel partnerships last, the more joy they bring.

*...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:5 (ESV)*

C. Gospel partnerships are evidence of authentic spiritual life.

*... 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. Philippians 1:6 (ESV)*

**D. God gives gospel partners great love for one another.**

*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, ... For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 1:7–8 (ESV)*

**E. The more adversity gospel partnerships face, the more joy they bring.**

*...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.  
Philippians 1:7–8 (ESV)*

*I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.  
Philippians 2:19–22 (ESV)*

## **6. How can I move from Christian friendship to the joy of gospel partnership?**

- A. Become a Christian, join a church, support your church, and sink yourself into serving with others in the church.**

- B. Serve in the church faithfully.**
- C. Partner for the gospel with your spouse. Your love for one another will grow.**
- D. Take a mission trip to experience the joy of gospel partnerships first-hand.**
- E. Support missionaries or local ministries financially, prayerfully, and practically.**
- F. CrossWinds is a multisite church because the gospel partnership between our campuses brings more joy!**

### **Life Group Questions**

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1. Most people think of church fellowship as hanging out. How is Paul's definition of fellowship (partnership) for the gospel different? How does that change the way I view my role in the church?
2. Compare Philippians 1:6 and Philippians 2:12-13. How do these verses complement one another?
3. Read Colossians 1:9-11. Compare this passage to Philippians 1:9-11. How should these passages shape the way we pray?
4. Read Philippians 1:9-11. Paul prays that the Philippians love for one another will abound. Abound means to constantly increase, instead of remaining static. Why must our love for one another constantly increase and not remain the same?
5. The kind of love Paul talks about is love that is seen in actions, not simply feelings. What is wrong with thinking of love as just a feeling (See Philippians 2:1-11 to see what our love should look like)?
6. In Philippians 1:9-11, Paul puts love, knowledge, and discernment together. Why is it important to have all three when making decisions?
7. In Philippians 1:10, Paul didn't want the Philippians to do what was right. He wanted them to discern what was best. What is the difference between doing something that is biblically acceptable and doing what is best? How does knowing we should be praying to discern what is best, and seeking to do it, change the way I plan my week and pray about my day?