

One Church, One Partnership

I. Partners in Philippi

A. The City of Philippi

- The city's original name was Crenides — "the little fountains"
- In 356 B.C. Philip II of Macedonia seized, enlarged and fortified the city, and renamed it Philippi ("pertaining to Philip") in, you guessed it, his own honor
- Philippi was an inland city on the famous Roman highway; it was an important for both commerce and culture
- The Romans conquered Philippi in 168 B.C. and made it a Roman colony
- By the time of Paul's journeys on mission to Philippi, the people had become very proud of their Roman citizenship
- Today Philippi is in ruins

B. The Church in Philippi

- The church was planted as a direct result of Paul and his companions' (Luke and Silas) sharing the gospel in Philippi, having been sent there by a heavenly vision (Acts 16:6-10)
- A number of people heard and responded to the gospel. As the gospel's influence began to impact the commerce and culture of Philippi, Paul and Silas were forced to leave, but Luke stayed to nurture the young church (for a more complete picture, read Acts 16)
- Paul returned to Philippi about 5 years later for a short visit
- Paul was eventually placed in house arrest in Rome (Acts 28), and around 62-63 A.D. he wrote the letter (that we know as the book of Philippians) to the church
- A church leader in Philippi, Epaphroditus, had taken a substantial financial gift from the church to Paul in Rome, and then returned with Paul's letter
- The church would have been about 10 years old when they received Paul's letter
- Two characteristics stand out about the church: they were predominantly a Gentile church, and they were an incredibly generous church

II. Partners in the Gospel... A New Fellowship (Phil 1:1-7)

"because of your partnership in the gospel"

This *PARTNERSHIP* ("koinonia" ... *FELLOWSHIP*) created by Jesus is a new people with new faith and new lives who have a new relationship with God, a new relationship with each other, and a new relationship to the world.

A. Where Does It Come From?

-Jesus... 1 John 1:1-10

-Why is this important?

-because apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ, a church is forced to attempt to gain some sort of common community through 1 of 2 ways:

1. Common Methods
2. Common Morals

-both are self-centered and self-serving.

-The gospel allows our methods to change in relation to our mission.

-The gospel is the source of our righteousness, not our works.

B. How Does It Shape How We Live?

1. Joint-Partakers in the Fellowship (Phil 1:6-7a)

-The Gospel make us joint-partakers in shared communion with God.

-Jesus completely reshapes our relationship with God.

2. Missional-Partners in the Fellowship (Phil 1:7b)

-the Gospel makes us missional-partners in a shared purpose.

Jesus completely reshapes our relationship to the world we live in.

-Luke 5:9-11

3. Active-Participants in the Fellowship (Phil 1:7)

-the Gospel makes us active-participants in a shared community.

Jesus completely reshapes our relationship with one another.

-The Philippians were partners in grace, suffering, love, and work of the Church.

-Phil 4: 14-18

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL MAKES US
JOINT-PARTAKERS IN COMMUNION WITH GOD,
MISSIONAL PARTNERS IN PURPOSE TO THE WORLD,
AND ACTIVE-PARTICIPANTS IN COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

III. What's Love Got To Do With It? (Phil 1:8-11)

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL IS A PARTNERSHIP
SHARING IN THE AFFECTION OF CHRIST.

Vs 8: "affection" of christ Jesus: *splágxnon* – properly, the internal organs ("viscera");
(figuratively) "*gut-level compassion*"

A. A Fellowship with a An Uncommon Love

1. " a love that abounds:

Love: agape love: unconditional, God love, unswayed by emotion

May abound: overflow

2. "overflowing in knowledge":

- epígnōsis* (from *epí*, "on, fitting" which intensifies *gnōsis*,
-REAL Knowledge or TRUE knowledge
-a first hand knowledge and understanding of Scripture

3. "overflowing in depth of insight":

- perception, understanding, discernment.
aísthēsis (a *feminine* noun) – that which "cuts through" hazy ethical
(moral) matters to really "size things up"

REAL LOVE UNDERSTANDS THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE
AND COMPREHENDS HOW TO APPLY IT IN REAL LIFE.

B. A Fellowship with a Love that rejoices in Truth (1 Cor 13:6)

1. It helps us be discerning
 - "*may discern*" (test for genuineness) *what is best*
2. It allows us to grow more like Christ
 - "*may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ*:"
3. It equips us to live IN Christ
 - "*filled with the fruit righteousness that comes through Christ*"
4. It brings glory and praise to God, not us.
 - "*to the glory and praise of God*"