

Partnership: Paul's Expression of Affection

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Main Verse: [Philippians 1:3-11](#)

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Pastor Bob · AM Service

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"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." — [Philippians 1:6](#)

The church at Philippi held a unique place in Paul's heart. Philippi was the first city in Europe where Paul preached the gospel during his second missionary journey (Acts 16). Among the first converts were **Lydia**, a seller of purple cloth ([Acts 16:14-15](#)), the **Philippian jailer** and his family ([Acts 16:25-34](#)), and **others** who formed the nucleus of the church.

Paul's gratitude is rooted in **partnership**. He expresses his affection to the church in three powerful ways.

I. THROUGH THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL — vv. 3-5

A. The Fellowship of the Gospel Makes Lasting **Memories** — v. 3

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." — [Philippians 1:3](#)

The word "thank" (Greek: *eucharisteo*) means "to express gratitude for grace received."

B. The Fellowship of the Gospel Inspires Joyful **Prayer** — v. 4

"Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy." — [Philippians 1:4](#)

The person or object that we remember in every prayer must be very dear to the heart.

C. The Fellowship of the Gospel Displays Honorable **Testimonies** — v. 5

"For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." — [Philippians 1:5](#)

Fellowship (v. 5) Greek: *koinonia* — participation, partnership, sharing together in a common mission. The Philippians were true partners in gospel ministry. They prayed. They gave financially. They suffered alongside Paul. They stood with him when others abandoned him.

Three reminders regarding the fellowship of the gospel:

- Remember God's faithfulness
- Celebrate what God has done together
- Give thanks for the people who shaped your faith

II. THROUGH CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF GOD — vv. 6-8

A. God's Work Involves the Promise of **Completion** — v. 6

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." — [Philippians 1:6](#)

God never abandons unfinished work.

B. God's Work Involves Encouragement from Other [Believers](#) — v. 7

"Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace." — [Philippians 1:7](#)

"Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction... no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only." — [Philippians 4:14-16](#)

C. God's Work Involves the Bond of [Affection](#) — v. 8

"For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ." — [Philippians 1:8](#)

The future of the church does not rest upon one pastor — it rests upon a faithful Savior. Our confidence must be in Christ, who remains when everyone else changes.

III. THROUGH THE SINCERITY OF HIS PRAYER — vv. 9-11

Paul's deepest desire is not numerical growth — but **spiritual maturity**.

A. Paul Prayed That They Would Abound in [Love](#) — v. 9

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment." — [Philippians 1:9](#)

Love (Greek: *agape*) — selfless, sacrificial, Christ-centered love. Paul wants their love to increase.

B. Paul Prayed That They Would Exercise [Discernment](#) — v. 10

"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." — [Philippians 1:10](#)

The character of a sincere Christian implies:

1. He has not assumed Christianity as a mask
2. His motives are pure
3. His conduct is free from deceit
4. His words express the real sentiments of his heart
5. He is true to his promises
6. He is always what he professes to be

C. Paul Prayed That They Would Bear the Fruit of [Righteousness](#) — v. 11

"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." — [Philippians 1:11](#)

Christian maturity requires:

- Growing love
- Growing wisdom
- Growing holiness
- Growing fruitfulness

Keep loving Jesus. Keep loving one another. Keep advancing the gospel.

Personal Takeaways

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