

Philippians

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Questions for Philippians 2:14-16

1. Why would Paul ask Christians to “do everything without complaining or arguing?”
2. In *The Message* paraphrase, verse 15 reads; “Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society.” (I have no idea what “squalid” means but it sounds gross doesn’t it.) What does that sentence mean to you?

3. How can you provide your family and friends with a “glimpse” of God?

4. Respond to the following two statements:
“You may be the only representative of Jesus that someone will ever see.”

“Non-Christians have the right to judge Christianity by how Christians live.”

5. What does it mean to “shine like stars in the universe...?”

[For further study you might read Matthew 5:14-16]



6. Why would Paul be concerned he “*did not run or labor for nothing?*”

Questions for Philippians 2:17-18

1. What does it mean to rejoice?
2. Why can Paul rejoice in jail while facing possible execution?
3. How is Paul’s joy an example for you?

Questions for Philippians 2:19-24

1. Paul wants to hear reports of their lives in Christ. Why do you think a pastor wants to see his people grow?
2. Paul introduces his friend Timothy in these verses and comments on his genuine love for God. List a few terms that Paul uses to describe Timothy:
3. How would someone that knows you well describe your relationship with God?

Questions for Philippians 2:25-30

1. Since Paul couldn't send Timothy right away he sent Epaphroditus. List three things Epaphroditus did for Paul.

1.

2.

3.

2. What types of qualities or attitudes does each of Epaphroditus actions require?

3. Why do you think Timothy and Epaphroditus are so important to Paul's work?

4. Are you a "Timothy" or "Epaphroditus" to anyone's work?

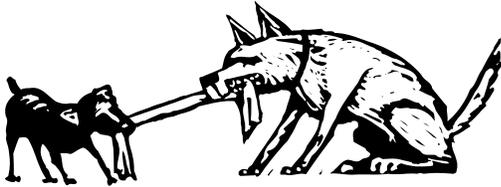
5. If not, is there any ministry or minister that you can help? What's an action plan to help you get started?

6. Reread Philippians 2:14-30 and summarize the passages in one sentence.

What is one truth you've learned from lesson five? How can you apply this truth to your life?

Questions for Philippians 3:1-6

1. What point do you think Paul is trying to make in these verses?



2. “Those dogs” Paul refers to are false teachers who are trying to steer the Christians away from Paul’s original teaching. What is a present day example of a false teacher who is leading followers from the truth?

3. How can you protect yourself from false teachers?

4. I realize it may seem strange to read the words “circumcise or circumcision” in the Bible, but there was a significant spiritual meaning attached to circumcised Jews in the Old Testament [see Genesis 17:1-14.] The spiritual meaning that circumcision had was a symbol for the Jewish people that they had a relationship with God. In the New Testament, Paul tries to show that “circumcision of the heart” signifies faith in God for Gentiles (non-Jews) who normally weren’t circumcised. [for further study see Romans 2:28-29; 4:6-12; Galatians 3:7, 29; Colossians 2:11-14.]

5. Paul tries to show, by his own example, that if godliness had to do with impressive credentials or following the rules he has more reason to brag than anyone. Below is the list that Paul gives. Next to each credential write a present day “rule” that someone might try to keep to “earn” their way to God. (By the way, this isn’t easy).

Paul’s credentials

What looks good for Christians today

- legitimate birth (example: going to church all the time)
- Circumcised on the eighth day
- From an elite tribe
- A strict and devout follower of the Law
- A strong defender of purity

Questions for Philippians 3:7-11

1. How does Paul view his credentials now that he’s a Christian?
2. What are a few things that you thought were important before Christ that are now gone?
3. What are some things that are too important (and should be gone) that keep you from growing in Christ?
4. What’s your plan to get rid of these? Who is going to hold you accountable to this plan?

5. Complete the following sentence: *“Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is...”*

6. Paul wanted to know Christ personally. He didn’t want to focus on following rules and rituals. He wanted to embrace Christ and be embraced by him. Why do you think he was opposed to making a religion out of rules? [For further study read how Jesus responded to the Pharisees in Matthew 23.]

7. What would it look like for you to “embrace Christ and be embraced by him?” Where does this embracing take place? (i.e. during quiet times, at church, while alone, etc.)

8. Attempt to memorize Philippians 3:8
“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have put aside all else, counting it worth less than nothing, in order that I can have Christ”

9. Reread Philippians 3:1-11 and summarize the passages in one sentence.

What is one truth you’ve learned from lesson six? How can you apply this truth to your life?