

Partnership in the Gospel

Philippians 1:3-11

Pastor Ben Tacoma

Partnership

Philippians is written to '*all the saints*'. Modern day definitions and usage of '*saints*' is unhelpful and damaging in understanding the Biblical usage. Paul uses 'saints' simply to describe all Christians, regardless of how morally praiseworthy they are!

As Christians we are 'saints' – called by God as His people here on the earth to do His will. 'Set apart' and 'called'

Every Christian is a saint, a partner in the gospel!

Relationship

Paul's connection with the Philippian Christians is far more than just a partnership, it's a deep relationship of mutual love. They are family.

Paul gets emotional, he wears his heart on his sleeve in *gratitude*, *joy*, and *affection*.

Do we thank God for our fellow Christians? Do we rejoice because of them? Do we have a deep love and longing to be with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Leadership

Paul is confident God is using the Philippians, at work in them for His glory.

Paul's prayer is for their continued growth, and he specifies exactly what sort of growth:

Growth in knowledge and discernment (knowing God's will)
Growth in approving what's superior (what God thinks is important)
Growth in purity and blamelessness (living holy lives)
Growth in the fruit of righteousness (producing spiritual results)

Our growth in Christ is something we must be intentional about but it ultimately is from God as we depend on Him in all things. (Vs. 6!!)

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