



Connect Discussion Guide

11.28.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Philippians 1:3-11

Key Scriptures:

"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. 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. 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, 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. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

- Philippians 1:3-11

Message Highlights:

- Partnership enables us to share in advancing the Kingdom.
- Nearly every Pauline epistle starts with thanksgiving -- for what God is doing in a community.
- Partners share in the grace of God.
- Partners seek the fruit which produces glory to God.

Conversation Starter:

Share a time when you attempted a task or project on your own and it didn't go well because it should have been a team effort. Identify with your group some reasons we as individuals sometimes resist partnership.

Discuss the Message:

1. From the first pages of Genesis, a major theme in the story of the Bible is God's desire to partner with humanity in order to bring about his loving reign over all creation. Why do you think God chose to partner with us instead of just doing it all for us?
2. Chuck shared that nearly every Pauline epistle begins with thanksgiving; brainstorm and discuss with your group some daily or weekly rhythms that you could add the discipline of thanksgiving to. How would this practice enrich or breathe new life into your rhythms?
3. Who is someone you are thankful to have a partnership with? What is it that you are working together to accomplish? What is it about your partnership with them that makes you grateful for them?

4. What happens when we fail to forge partnerships and attempt to expand God's Kingdom on our own?
5. How is prayer connected to partnership? Identify ways prayer amplifies a partnership.
6. Paul prays for his friends' love in Christ to "abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent..." What practical steps can we take in order for that prayer to be realized in our lives?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for the hope you have given us in and through your Son, our Savior. King Jesus, we are humbled that you would invite us to partner with you to advance the gospel and expand your kingdom in this world. We are deeply grateful for the partnership we share with others in your mission. Holy Spirit, we pray that you might bring to completion the good work that you have begun in us. Help us to continue growing and maturing so that we bear much fruit, for your glory. Father, may the grace of your Son, Jesus, the love you have for us and the fellowship of your Spirit be with us always. Amen.