

Abounding Love Philippians 1:9-18

vs. 9-11,

I pray this:

What does Paul pray?

Your love will keep growing
In knowledge and discernment
approving the things that are superior.

Paul is praying for unlimited love.

Love leads to prayer and informs knowledge.

Romans 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- This love will overflow into deeds of kindness.
- Wrong attitudes and actions toward each other will decrease / disappear.

Isaiah 63:7 according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Abundance / Overflowing / without containment

Overflowing Grace -> **Romans 5:17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

The Church overflowing in

Hope -> **Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Faith, speech, knowledge, diligence -> **2 Corinthians 8:7** But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Wisdom -> **Ephesians 1:8** (redemption) which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

As followers of Jesus we overflow with

Encouragement -> **1 Corinthians 14:12** So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Generosity -> **2 Corinthians 8:1-6**

Thankfulness ->

Comfort -> **2 Corinthians 1:4-5** who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. **5** For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Every good work ->

We are so full of Jesus filling love that we have no room to store it.

It abounds and overflows!

1Thessalonians 3:12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

There is an incredible lack of love.

But not how the world defines it.

Without knowledge, love can be misdirected.

Love is given direction (regulated) by knowledge and discernment.

Humanity doesn't define love, God does.

"Nothing perhaps is more harmful than the easy good nature which is willing to tolerate everything; and this is often mistaken for the Christian frame of mind. Love must fasten itself on the things which are worth loving, and it cannot do so unless it is wisely directed"

Gerald F. Hawthorne, [Philippians](#), vol. 43, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 2004), 30.

Discernment -> the ability to make a proper moral decision in the middle of a large pool of differing and difficult choices.

Love is not primarily affection, love is behavior.

vs. 10, Approving the things that are superior.

What is superior?

The things that are pure and blameless in the day of Christ.

The fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

To the glory and praise of God.

Love, sharpened by knowledge and discernment, is the resource for grabbing hold of what is vital / essential / superior.

This love produces fruit of righteousness. Jesus is the source.

John 15:5, 9-11 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Fruit of righteousness is the way of the cross.

It is self-emptying so as to become a servant / slave.

The fruit of righteousness does not act with selfish ambition [Paul is getting his readers ready for what will come later in the letter (chapter 2)].

Question: What has been your source to define love? How are you allowing God's word to refine your understanding of love? What does it mean for you to be more discerning in how you love? How are you growing in Jesus centered love? In what ways are you being selfish with love and how are you preventing it from overflowing?

In Summary

- I pray that you overflow with an intelligent and perceptive love.
- I pray that you grow in the ability to recognize and choose the truly essential things of life.
- I pray that you will be a people (a church) that is pure and blameless and never a means of hurting others.
- I pray that you remain committed to honoring and praising God. This display (a life amplified) will result in others honoring and praising God.

vs. 12, What is happening to me is advancing the gospel.

Those who are guarding Paul are hearing about Jesus.

Instead of fear taking place, the brothers have gained confidence to speak the gospel. (vs. 14)

Believers in Rome are not deterred by Paul's imprisonment. They are actively sharing their faith, boldly and without fear.

vs. 15, Of course you get a mixed bag.

Some are motivated by man and not God (envy) / competition (rivalry).

But others out of good will (Romans 16)-> they know my (Paul) call in life.

vs. 17, Selfish ambition - not understanding my call and trying to make my circumstances worse.

Does it matter? False or True motives...Christ is proclaimed.

The power of the gospel does not depend on the character of its messenger.

Question: What is my source of truth? Is it the strength of people's character and my ability to depend on them? Or...Is it in the strength of God's character and his chosen method of revealing truth (His word)?

Are you focused on how the gospel is transforming your life or are you too consumed with the bad decisions, inconsistencies, and failures of others? (Social Media / Biblical engagement)

vs. 18, The gospel is of great worth and beauty, I will rejoice!
Christ is proclaimed.

- The message of the gospel is true.
- It contains the only good news for a fallen and broken world.
- My joy is found in Jesus.