

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Joyful Partnership

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 19, 2026



Philippians 1:3-11 (NLT) Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. ⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favour of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

What does joyful partnership look like & why is it worth pursuing?

- **Joyful partnership looks like shared devotion.**

v. 3-4 "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy..."

- **It's worth pursuing because... shared devotion produces deep joy.**

Diagnostic Question: Do we just attend together—or are we spiritually invested in one another?

- **Joyful partnership looks like shared mission.**

⁵ "...for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now."

"Partnership" (*koinōnia*) = is active participation, not passive association.

- **It's worth pursuing because shared mission advances the Gospel.**

Diagnostic Question: Is the gospel something we believe—or something we're building our lives around together?

- **Joyful partnership looks like shared confidence in God.**

⁶ "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

- **It's worth pursuing because shared confidence strengthens our faith.**

Diagnostic Question: Do we see people for who they are—or who God is making them?

- **Joyful partnership looks like shared affection.**

⁷ "So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favour of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus."

1 John 4:19 (NLT) "We love each other because He [God] loved us first."

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT) "Let love be your highest goal."

John 13:35 (NLT) "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

- **It's worth pursuing because when we love each other deeply, we show the world what Jesus is like.**

Diagnostic Question: Are we growing in love for one another?

- **Joyful partnership looks like shared growth.**

⁹ "I pray your love will overflow more and more..."

Philippians 1:9-11 (MSG) "So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God."

- **It's worth pursuing because shared growth prepares us for eternity.**

Diagnostic Question: Are we becoming more like Jesus & helping others become like Him?

Big Idea: Joy grows when we are deeply devoted to Jesus & actively engaged in His mission together.

What is God saying to you about pursuing Joyful Partnership?

What is one step you can take this week to lean into this with intentionality?



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Joyful Partnership
#2 of 15 - April 19, 2026**

Context

1) Read Philippians 1:1-11. Paul writes from prison, yet his words are full of gratitude and joy. How does knowing Paul's circumstances change the way you hear his words in verses 3-8?

2) What does that reveal about the kind of relationships he had with this church?

Observation

3) Paul says, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks..." What do you notice about the emotional tone of Paul's prayer for these believers? How can you tell his partnership with them was more than casual friendship?

4) Paul says the believers have "a special place in my heart." What stands out to you about the depth of Paul's love for the church? How does this reflect the heart of Jesus?

Meaning

5) Verse 5 says they were "partners in spreading the Good News." What do you think biblical partnership (koinonia) means beyond simply attending church together? How is active participation different from passive association?

6) Paul says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." Why is it important to see fellow believers not just as they are now, but as who God is shaping them to become? How can that perspective change the way we treat one another?

Application

7) What does spiritual investment in other believers practically look like in everyday life? What tends to keep people from living this way?

8) Paul prays that their love would "overflow more and more in knowledge and understanding." How can our Impact Community help one another grow in both love and spiritual maturity? What would it look like for love to become both sincere and wise?

9) The big idea was: "Joy grows when we are deeply devoted to Jesus and actively engaged in His mission together." What is one specific step you can take this week to pursue joyful partnership more intentionally? Who might God be inviting you to encourage, pray for, or serve?



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