

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Grace for the Journey of Joy

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

August 9, 2026



Have you ever noticed how almost everyone is searching for a place to belong?

Big Idea: Because we belong to Jesus, we belong to one another, & God's grace sustains us as we journey in joy.

Philippians 4:21-23 (NLT) "Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. ²² And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household. ²³ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

1) Joy Begins with Belonging to Christ.

²¹"Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus."

- **Our primary identity isn't what we do. It's whose we are.**

2) Joy Grows Through Belonging to One Another.

^{21b} "The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. ²² And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household."

3) Joy is Sustained by Grace.

²³ "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (AMP) "For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favour drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation]."

A Final Challenge.

- **Belong to Christ.**
- **Belong to One Another.**
- **Live in Grace.**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Grace for the Journey of Joy
#15 of 15 - August 9, 2026**

Context

1. Throughout Philippians, Paul has written about joy in suffering, humility, contentment, generosity, and prayer. How do these final verses (Philippians 4:21–23) serve as a fitting conclusion to the entire letter? What themes from the book do you hear echoed in these closing words?
2. Paul ends his letter with greetings from believers in many different places—including "those in Caesar's household." What does this tell us about the spread of the gospel and the kind of community God was creating in the first-century church?

Observation

3. Read Philippians 4:21–23. What three truths does Paul emphasize in these final verses? What words or phrases stand out to you most, and why?
4. Notice the different groups Paul mentions: "God's holy people," "the brothers who are with me," "all God's people," and "Caesar's household." What do these greetings reveal about the relationships that existed among believers?

Meaning

5. Paul calls believers "God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus." What does it mean that our primary identity is found in Christ rather than in our achievements, failures, career, family, or other identities? How does this truth produce lasting joy?
6. Paul closes not with another command but with a blessing of grace. Why is grace not just the beginning of the Christian life but the ongoing source of strength for following Jesus? How have you experienced God's grace carrying you through a difficult season?

Application

7. The sermon highlighted three responses: Belong to Christ. Belong to one another. Live by grace. Which of these is God inviting you to grow in right now? What is one practical step you can take this week?
8. The sermon concluded with John Newton's words: "*I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Saviour.*" How does remembering both our need and Christ's grace keep us humble, joyful, and dependent on Jesus? Close by sharing one way you have seen God's grace at work in your life recently, and pray for one another.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Grace for the Journey of Joy
#15 of 15 - August 9, 2026**

Context

1. Throughout Philippians, Paul has written about joy in suffering, humility, contentment, generosity, and prayer. How do these final verses (Philippians 4:21–23) serve as a fitting conclusion to the entire letter? What themes from the book do you hear echoed in these closing words?
2. Paul ends his letter with greetings from believers in many different places—including "those in Caesar's household." What does this tell us about the spread of the gospel and the kind of community God was creating in the first-century church?

Observation

3. Read Philippians 4:21–23. What three truths does Paul emphasize in these final verses? What words or phrases stand out to you most, and why?
4. Notice the different groups Paul mentions: "God's holy people," "the brothers who are with me," "all God's people," and "Caesar's household." What do these greetings reveal about the relationships that existed among believers?

Meaning

5. Paul calls believers "God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus." What does it mean that our primary identity is found in Christ rather than in our achievements, failures, career, family, or other identities? How does this truth produce lasting joy?
6. Paul closes not with another command but with a blessing of grace. Why is grace not just the beginning of the Christian life but the ongoing source of strength for following Jesus? How have you experienced God's grace carrying you through a difficult season?

Application

7. The sermon highlighted three responses: Belong to Christ. Belong to one another. Live by grace. Which of these is God inviting you to grow in right now? What is one practical step you can take this week?
8. The sermon concluded with John Newton's words: "*I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Saviour.*" How does remembering both our need and Christ's grace keep us humble, joyful, and dependent on Jesus? Close by sharing one way you have seen God's grace at work in your life recently, and pray for one another.