

# Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

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Intro... A new type of summer series

## Background of Philippians

Who, What, When, Where, and Why?

**Philippians 1:9-11** *"9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."*

## Paul's 2 Desires

1. That our love may abound more and more (**9a**)

Love for what?

2. Knowledge and discernment (**9b**)

Discernment and wisdom... loving well must be loving wise

Paul is not praying that the Philippians would become smarter, but wiser, in their care for one another. (Steve Lawson, *Philippians for You*, p. 37)

You need knowledge of Christ and His Word, and you need a discerning heart and mind in life and in your relationships. In this we see the great commandments of loving God and people. The two are tied together. Know God, know people; love God, love people. (Merida and Chan, Exalting Jesus in Philippians, p. 43)

## Paul's 3 Reasons

1. So that we might approve what is excellent (10a)

Love that is knowledgeable and discerning can choose the best thing out of the good

Based on a growing, knowledgeable, and discerning love, Paul prays for the Philippians to choose the things that are best in this life and in their relationships. (Merida and Chan, Exalting Jesus in Philippians, p. 43)

2. So that we might be pure and blameless (10b)

**1 Thessalonians 3:12-13** *12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*

*Pottery*

Also, realize that this prayer for purity and blamelessness is not a prayer for you to go clean yourself up to meet Jesus. It's a prayer for you who already trust in Jesus to grow in Christlikeness, which flows from your union with Christ. The Philippians were already accepted by God in Christ. Paul is praying that they would become what they are. (Merida and Chan, Exalting Jesus in Philippians, p. 45)

3. So that we might be filled with the fruit of righteousness (11a)

**John 15:5** *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.*

## **Paul's Ultimate Motivation**

1. God's glory and praise (11b)

This should be the ultimate motivation and aim of all that we do

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

*Faucets*

### Conclusion +

This should be our prayer for each other, for our parents, for our kids, for our spouses, for our friends, for our leaders.

This prayer by Paul for the Philippians provides a helpful, concise checklist that can and should direct our prayers for others. What he prayed for these believers should guide our prayers for one another. As an unconditional love grows in us for other believers, we will be praying for them. The fruit of righteousness that began to be evident at our conversion will grow as we offer prayers on behalf of others. May God enable us to approve the things that are excellent until the day of Christ. Should he return in your lifetime, may he find you using that life to love his people. And in so doing, may you, and those for whom you pray, bring great glory and praise of God. (Steve Lawson, *Philippians for You*, p. 42)