



**Fruitful Prayers from Philippians
Philippians 1:1-11**

Pray that our love for one another would keep growing.

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more,

Text Message:

- The love spoken of here is not love for God or Christ, but love for the Body of Christ, as Paul refers to the Philippian Church:
 - 1) As a partnership in the Gospel (Verse 5).
 - 2) As people he held in his heart (Verse 7a).
 - 3) As partakers of grace (Verse 7b).
 - 4) As people yearned for with Jesus' affection (Verse 8).
- Look at how important this is to Jesus:
 - 1) Jesus said that all the commandments can be summarized by loving God and loving people (Matthew, Mark, Luke).
 - 2) Jesus said our love for one another would be a witness that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35).
 - 3) The Church in Ephesus had lost its "first love" and Jesus was about to shut it down (Revelation 2:5)!
- The word "abound" here was a word that was used of a flower going from bud to full bloom.

This week's Prayer Verse for our love to keep growing:

And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing...

Philippians 1:9, *Holman Christian Standard Bible*

Pray that our love for one another would mature.

^{9b} 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,

Text Message:

- These verses eliminate for the Philippians (and us!) the kind of sentimental sappy love that simply "goes along to get along."
- Knowledge and discernment in love will enable us to:
 - 1) Have hard conversations when needed.
 - 2) Work with hurt feelings and being "rubbed the wrong way."
 - 3) Focus on what really matters and not get sidetracked.
 - 4) Properly handle crises that arise without division.
 - 5) Be prepared for Jesus' Second Coming.

This week's Prayer Verse for our love to mature:

I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:9b-10, *Common English Bible*

Pray that we would be outward-focused.

¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Text Message:

- As in agriculture, here the "fruit" refers to what can be seen as the result of an unseen process.
- We can't see what is going on in the branch of an apple tree until we see its fruit.
- So, this refers to outward actions that are based on being in right standing with God that result both right behavior and doing good things together that please God.

This week's Prayer Verse for the church to be outward-focused:

Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11, *Contemporary English Version*



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