

The logo features the word "JOY" in large, white, bold letters with a colorful, multi-colored outline. Below it, the words "in PHILIPPIANS" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is dark blue with a subtle pattern of colorful lines.

For the Love of the Business
Philippians 1:9-11
May 19, 2019

Three principles that will keep the family business vital and strong:

1. The principle of thankfulness

Philippians 1:3 (NKJV) I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

2. The principle of confidence

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.

3. The principle of awareness

Philippians 1:7-8 (NKJV) Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

Two signs that directly verify that God is at work in us:

A. When we stand up for the gospel

B. When we spread the gospel

Ronald Reagan:

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it on to the children in the bloodstream, it must be fought for, protected, and handed to them to do the same.”

Four elements of mature love:

1. Our love should be plenteous

Philippians 1:9a (NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more...

Mother Teresa:

“The biggest disease today is not leprosy or cancer or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbor who lives at the roadside, the victim of exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease.”

2. Our love should be perceptive

Philippians 1:9-10a (NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent...

Two banks of love:

A. The bank of knowledge

Philippians 1:9a And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge...

B. The bank of discernment

Philippians 1:9b And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment

Susanna Wesley:

"Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the delight for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin."

3. Our love should be pure

Philippians 1:10 (NKJV) That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

Warren Wiersbe:

"*Sincere* means 'to whirl in a sieve,' suggesting the idea of a winnowing process that removes chaff. In both cases the truth is the same: Paul prays that his friends will have the kind of character that can pass the test. (Our English word *sincere* comes from a Latin word that means "unadulterated, pure, unmixed.")

Matthew Henry:

"Hypocrisy is doing the devil's work in God's clothing."

Takeaway:

The greatest love you can show is love without hypocrisy and offense. Except for unbelief, Jesus condemned the sin of hypocrisy more than any other sin. Especially with the scribes and Pharisees.

4. Our love should be on purpose

Philippians 1:11 (NKJV) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.