

Philippians

YA Life Group Study Guide

Week 1

Background Info

Philippi is a Roman Colony – meaning people born there enjoy Roman Citizenship. There are few modern equivalents, to understand the implications of this – the closest might be colonial England in the past few centuries. People living in the Roman Empire maintained their citizenship of their native (conquered) lands and varying degrees of a local puppet government (i.e. King Herod in Judea during Jesus' time). Philippi was directly governed by Rome with no local government.

Roman citizenship was not granted to all people living Roman ruled lands, and citizenship carried unique privileges (see Paul in Acts 22: 24-29)

Intro Discussion

What do we as Americans have a right to?

Ex. *Freedom of speech, religion, fair trial etc. – Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness*

In what ways is our culture focused on individual rights?

Ex. *A Bill of Rights (one of the first things our country did), wars over freedom, etc.*

As Christians, is there ever a conflict between our cultural identity and our identity in Christ?

Text -- Phil 1: 1-8

What tone do you see Paul setting in his greeting?

Calls himself a slave (v1)

Tells the people they belong to Christ (v1)

How do you think that sat with Roman Citizens to “belong” to Christ, and to be considered slaves?

How do we as Americans think of that? How does our cultures focus on “rights” impact our opinion of being “slaves of Christ?”

Paul states they are partners with him in his imprisonment (v7) and in spreading the truth. What do you think he means by that statement?

What might they have to give up for God to “continue his good work (v6)?”

Application

What kinds of good works might God have started in our lives that are not yet complete?

What might we have to sacrifice for those to be completed?

How should our view of our rights change when we become disciples of Jesus?