

Sermon Discussion Questions

“WHEN GRACE AND PEACE RUN DEEP”

Discuss

Talking about getting together for “fellowship” or having a “fellowship supper” can be the kind of language that baffles those who are completely new to Christianity or church culture. This can be particularly true if the time described as “fellowship” turns out to be no different from an ordinary outing with friends at a coffee shop or restaurant. The passage we are studying this week in Philippians gives us an opportunity to re-think what we mean when we say we have fellowship with other believers. Let’s consider what binds us together (and/or what *should* bind us together) as brothers and sisters in Christ.

- 1) When Paul remembers his Philippian friends, what fills him with joy and thanksgiving? (See vv. 4-7 and 2 Cor. 8:1-5)
 - What did Paul and the various members of the Philippian church have in common? In what ways were they different? (See Acts 16:6-38 if you want to remind yourself of the first converts to Christianity in Philippi.)
 - How should the grace and peace given to us through Christ affect our relationships with other believers, including those with whom we have no natural affinities (i.e., we come from different backgrounds or have different tastes or different gifts and abilities)? If time allows, perhaps your group could share stories of friendships they have that are rooted in a shared love for Jesus and a shared knowledge of being a recipient of God’s grace versus friendships that are based primarily on similar likes and dislikes or similar ages and stages of life.
- 2) Our church often uses the Apostles’ Creed to affirm our faith. In that creed, we say that we believe in “the communion of saints.” Have you ever thought about what that means? (The Heidelberg Catechism, question 55, gives a very helpful definition of this.)
 - What kind of communion did Paul and the Philippian saints enjoy? And what did that communion mean in terms of
 - ◇ how they viewed each other (or what they thought of each other)?
 - ◇ how they prayed for each other?
 - ◇ what they gave to each other?
 - ◇ what they labored together for?
- 3) In this letter, we get to see the deep affection that Paul had for the members of the church in Philippi. If people got a similar glimpse of the relationships between Christians in our city or in our country, what do you think they would say most characterizes those relationships? What, above all, should characterize those relationships?



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: May 5, 2019

SPEAKER: Frank/Brian

SERIES: Philippians

PASSAGE: Phil. 1:3-8

Pray

HEAVENLY FATHER,

Like Paul, we thank you for those with whom we are privileged to partner in the gospel. We remember with joy our brothers and sisters who are our co-laborers, serving you here and around the world.

(Take time to name and pray for those fellow believers who are in your heart and share in God’s grace with you.)

We thank you, too, that we can have confidence that you will carry on to completion the good work that you have begun in us and in our fellow believers.

Thank you that in Christ we can be wonderfully united with other believers, all of us looking forward to that great day when people from every nation, tribe, people, and language will stand before the throne and cry out, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Amen and amen.

– based on Phil. 1:3-8, Rev. 7:9-10

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Tennessee Valley Presbytery

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Dan and Gini serving in a sensitive area