
CHURCH IN COMMON

COMMON CITY—PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

What?

If you have been reading/listening to the Letter of Philippians, share some of the impressions it has been leaving on you.

Read Philippians 1:3-11. What phrases stick out, or that you find meaningful and beautiful? What questions do you have?

N.T. Wright writes, “This letter is all about partnership (v. 5), one of the most important words in Paul’s vocabulary. It is sometimes translated fellowship, but it clearly has a practical, even financial, implication which our word fellowship doesn’t always carry. Although it develops particular Christian meanings, including the delighted sharing of worship, prayer, and mutual support and friendship, in Paul’s world it was the normal word for a business partnership, in which all those involved would share in doing the work on the one hand and in the financial responsibilities on the other.”

How had the Philippians worked in partnership with Paul?

So what?

Think about your relationships. Who in your Christian life has been to you like the Philippians to Paul, and vice versa?

Consider your participation at Inglewood CRC. Would you say that you are in partnership for the gospel, or is your fellowship more social? Why do you answer as you do?

Paul prays in v.9-10 that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, and that the purpose of this love is so that they may be able to discern what is best and that they may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

How does this idea of love contrast with more popular ideas of love?

Why might moral discernment be a necessary component of Christian love?

Now what?

How could you commit or prompt yourself to pray regularly for your fellow partners in the gospel at ICRC like Paul outlines in this passage?

Pray that all of you will have love which overflows in knowledge and wisdom, the ability to discern right from wrong, and the fruit of right living to the glory of God. Pray for others in the church as you