



Praying with the Affection of Christ Jesus

Philippians 1:1-11

Big Idea: Our attitudes and actions toward one another should be moved by gospel-rooted affection and sustained with gospel-oriented prayer.

Outline:

1. Gospel-Rooted Affection

1) The Genuineness of Paul's Affection

2) The Context for Paul's Affection

3) The Importance of Paul's Affection

2. Gospel-Oriented Prayer

1) Paul's Pattern of Prayer

2) Paul's Prayer Request Priorities

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is another Christian who has shown you “the affection of Christ Jesus” (Phil.1:8)? Will you consider thanking God for them today?
2. What are some ways you can express and show “the affection of Christ Jesus” to others in the church?
3. Sometimes churches are stereotypically known as places of “fake” relationships and “fake” love. How do we know Paul was genuine in his feelings for the Philippian Christians? How can we ensure our love for others is just as genuine as Paul’s?
4. It is normal to struggle with annoyance, frustration, and other negative feelings toward other Christians. Based on this passage, how might we deal with those negative feelings toward other believers?
5. What reasons tend to keep you from a pattern of regular prayer? Is there anything from this passage that can help you establish a more regular, continual pattern of prayer?
6. What stands out to you from Paul’s prayer requests in verses 9-11?
7. Spend some time in prayer with one another in your life groups. See if you can put some of Paul’s prayer requests for the Philippians in your own words as you pray for each other.