

Philippians 1:9–11

“Praying for Growth in Christian Love”

***What was it that the apostle was praying so joyfully for the Philippians?** Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these three verses, we find that he was praying for growth in love—a growth that is the work of Christ, until the day of Christ, defined by the law of Christ, by the life of Christ, to the praise of God's glory in Christ.*

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Philippians, 1:9-11. And this I pray. That your love may abound still more and more. In knowledge and all discernment. That you may approve the things that are excellent. That you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ. Big filled. With the fruits of righteousness. Which are by Jesus Christ.

To the glory and praise of God.

The reading of God's word. So he's just told them in verses. 3 through 6 that he. Prays for them. Out of. That. He prays for them joyfully because of the work that is begun. And that is sure to be completed and then he told them verse 9 through 7 and 8 how he loves them.

With Jesus's own love for them.

And so now he tells us what he prays for them. Out of love for them and turns out to be that he prays that they would love more. And there's some question here among pastors and others who comment on the passage seeming love for God or love for others, and I think the answer is yes.

All of their love. You cannot love God properly without loving others because loving means keeping his commandment from the first great commandment to love him and the second great commandment is to love your neighbor and the Christian great commandment does the love one another is Jesus has love you.

So that's not surprising that the one who loves them with the love of Jesus as he prays for them about the work that Jesus has started and that Jesus will complete at the day of Christ. Jesus would pray for them that they would have love that is verse 11 by Jesus Christ.

The fruit of righteousness so he prays that their love would grow well what kind of love is this? There's not a nebulous mushy. Thing because the love of Christ is not a nebulous mushy thing and describes to his producing his love in believers. Now there's a defined thing and because it's defined the way that it grows is by knowledge and all discernment.

The love is a careful thing love is a righteous thing love makes choices love understands. What is going on? And so as I love God, they approve of the things that bring God glory as they love neighbors, they approve of the thing things that do their neighbors good as defined by God because he's the one who defines what is good.

And so if you want to love others better want you need is knowledge and discernment. Thankfully we know that we don't have to produce this knowledge and discernment ourselves, we know it in two different ways one the apostles praying for it. Which means there's someone who gives it to you to whom do we praise EQ.

We pray to God he's the one who gives the knowledge he's the one who gives the discernment. That increases improves enriches our love. So we are approved the things that are excellent and are pure and blameless. Hmm, you can James says sincere and without a fence. But the more we grow and knowledge and discernment and bright choices proving the things that are excellent.

The more we grow in being pure and blameless until the day of Christ and that's the second time isn't it? In this little chapter that we have seen that phrase first time we saw it was in verse 6 where he was confident. That the one who had started the good work in the Philippians would bring it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

And so now he says, I'm praying for you that you will grow in this love. And you grow in love by this knowledge and this discernment and these righteous choices being pure and being blameless until the day of Christ.

Now it comes from God. And how does God give it to us as fruit being filled? With the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and phrase of God, so God has decided that he will glorify. Himself by giving His Son for us by giving His Son to us not only that we would be forgiven in Christ, but that we would grow.

In love that. He would fill us with His fruit the fruits. Of righteousness.

So, he prays that we will.

Grow in Jesus or by Jesus. And that this will give God glory. So we should pray and work. Of course the Apostle wants to help them. Become more loving. And to grow in knowledge and discernment. But he doesn't just write a letter that teaches them. He also prays for them.

We should imitate this as well. Both laboring in those means that God has given and praying that God would make those means fruitful. So that our love would grow continually. Definitely.

Organically by growing out of Jesus and doctrinally but. Means giving praise to God.

Father we need our love to abandon.

So we pray that you would help us in the study of your word would take root. Your spirit would make it fruitful in us applying Christ to us by it.

But we realize oh God that. It is your spirit who must do it is by Christ that the fruit comes. It is unto your praise. That the fruit grows. And so we pray that you would help us. Not just to use meditate upon the word. As if it is in us.

For the word to be fruitful. But keep us faithful and calling upon your name and as well. Praying for ourselves praying for others. Even as the apostle models for us here, we ask you in Jesus name. Amen.