

JOY REGARDLESS

Philippians 1:3-11

Joe Testa, College & Young Adult Pastor

September 6, 2020



Four thoughts from Paul that help further define true Christian fellowship:

1. 1:3-4 I have you in my mind.

2. 1:5-6 Partnered in the gospel

“Partnership” in the Greek is the word “koinonia.”

Koinonia = fellowship/participation

The essential meaning of Koinonia embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms of community, communion, joint participation, sharing and intimacy. Koinonia can therefore refer in some contexts to a jointly contributed gift. The word appears 19 times in most editions of the Greek New Testament.

What does being partnered in the gospel include?

- Paul definitely sensed a partnership by the way this church stood with him financially throughout his ministry...but it was way more than that.
- They were linked arm in arm, standing side by side in the actual ministry of the gospel.
- They prayed together for those they were reaching out to.
- They were on mission together.

3. 1:7-8 I hold you in my heart.

To hold someone in your heart means the following:

- You know each other—good, bad, and ugly.
- You are pulling for each other in prayer.
- These relationships have a central function in your life.
- You love them.

The Greek for yearn = epipotheo: long for, desire

Affection – translated affection or inward parts (emotion so strong, he included his guts in the feeling)

It would be closer to saying “I love you with all my guts.”

4. 1:9-11 I hold you in my prayer.

Application:

- Find a way to connect with a smaller group of people.
- This pandemic has people scattered more than ever. Find creative ways to be together, whether that means meeting outside, finding others who jive with your COVID preferences. Being together as Christ-followers isn't optional. Jesus established the church because we can't do the Christian life on our own. The New Testament teaches that connecting with others and having true Koinonia has a way of keeping us sensitive to sin.
- Move toward a deeper sense of Koinonia in your smaller network. See how you can stir each other up to live a life on mission together. A simple first step is to encourage everyone in the group to cultivate some friendships with people outside the church. It is difficult to be engaged in gospel mission if you only know Christians.
- Seek to be vulnerable and real with other people. You can be the one that takes things deeper. Talk about your struggles and failures.

QUOTES

“...[H]appiness depends on external factors to exist. Happiness happens to us. Even though we may seek it, desire it, pursue it, etc., feeling happy is not a choice we make.

Joy, on the other hand, is a choice purposefully made. Joy is an attitude of the heart and spirit, present inside of us as an untapped reservoir of potential.

It's possible to feel joy in difficult times. Joy doesn't need a smile in order to exist, although it does feel better with one. Joy can share its space with other emotions – sadness, shame or anger. Happiness can't. Happiness is not present in darkness and difficulty. Joy never leaves it. Joy undergirds our spirits; it brings to life peace and contentment.”

https://www.compassion.com/sponsor_a_child/difference-between-joy-and-happiness.htm

