

Three Marks of a Person Living for Christ

Philippians 1:1-11

Today we step away from the book of Romans, and jump into a new 15 week series on the book of Philippians. This is a season of Spiritual renewal for our lead Pastor, Mark Vroegop, but it can also serve as a season of spiritual renewal for us. Philippians is a book that focuses on Jesus: who He is, what He brings and how He calls us to live in Him; to live for Him. As we step into this 15 week series, where is your heart right now, and where are the hearts of the men and women in your small group? What is it that you need to be reminded of in your heart? How do you need to be spiritually refreshed. As we pray for Pastor Mark, that God would refresh him and encourage him in this season of rest, let us pray for our own hearts and lives, that we too would be encouraged and refreshed as we dig into His Word and learn more about "Our Life in Christ" and work to apply God's Word to our lives each and every day. Psalm 19:7 tells us that the law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. May our souls be revived today, and each day, as we seek to live in Him!

1. Paul opens this letter with his usual greeting using the phrase "Grace to you." As an Apostle, Paul spoke, and wrote, with the authority of God, thus the words he penned to the church in Philippi were spoken from God through Paul. How do you receive the Words of God? What importance or significance do they play in your life on a daily basis. Is the Bible God's grace for you each day, or just words that you read from time to time?
2. Paul tells these people that he prays for them always. Who do you pray for "always"?

*At 6pm on Sunday, April 27th, College Parkers are gathering to pray for 2 families:

Baher and Bess Malek—Baher is in the ICU in an induced coma because he is having siezures and they cannot determine what is causing this to happen. Pray for this family that is clinging to Jesus right now and is in the midst of a raging storm.

Joshua and Heather Day—On Friday, April 25th, Isaac, their 14 yr. old son ended his life. Pray for this family as they grieve deeply and their hearts are filled with anguish. Pray for God to hold them and sustain them today and in the days and years to come.

If your group is meeting on Sunday, April 27th, we invite you to pause your discussion and join the body of CPC in prayer. If you're meeting on another night, we invite you to pray for these families as a part of the on-going prayers lifted up on behalf of these families.

3. What does it look like to have a partnership in the gospel? What is *your* partnership in the gospel?
4. Do you believe Jesus will complete what He started in your life? What about in the life of your wife or family? What causes your faith to grow in holding this belief in your heart? What pushes up against this and causes your faith to waiver? How might your small group help you to stand firmly upon this statement? (Is there fruit in your life to demonstrate the work of what God is faithfully doing?)
5. What is the perspective of your life? Do you want instant change? Instant repentance and transformation? Instant spiritual growth? Instant maturity? Jesus has an eternal perspective; He wants to grow us to be more like Him all the days of our lives. Are you willing to wait on God? Is your perspective eternal or temporal (2 Cor 4:18)?

6. Are you looking for the easy road in following Jesus? Are you willing to die for your faith, and not just a physical death? What have you died to in following Jesus? What do you need to die to? What does it look like to be in chains for following Jesus?

7. Describe your prayer life. What does it really look like vs. what do you want it to look like?

8. What did you learn about Jesus from this sermon? How should that impact your life in Christ?