

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 30, 2024

“The Prayers of Paul: Life Together”

Philippians 1:1-11

Paul prayed many _____ prayers in his NT letters, and his example shows us that we can “go big” when we’re praying for others; and that our prayers are not only pleasing to God, but can be purposeful, effective, and _____—for the ones we’re praying for and for ourselves.

Paul is writing to address some _____ in and around the church in Philippi.

“I urge Eu-o-dia and Syn-ty-che to agree in the Lord.” (Philippians 4:2)

He wanted these two women, along with the rest of the church, to be brought together and to have _____ with one another as they _____ both suffering and false teaching.

The fact that he identifies them by name tells us this conflict was public and _____. And, that it was something that was a concern for the health and well-being of the entire _____—which also meant that it had a concern for the _____ of God and the glory of Christ’s name among the people in Philippi.

2 THINGS THAT FUELED THE PHILIPPIANS’S LIFE TOGETHER

A Prayer _____.

It’s often easier for us to _____ for a difficult person rather than to _____ them or do something that they need.

Paul’s prayer here, however, actually _____ both. It shows us that he _____ and _____.

“It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:7)

Paul wrote this letter and prayed this prayer in the midst of his own trials and _____, from a dark, roman _____. And despite his suffering, his chief focus was still the glory of Christ, the spreading of the

kingdom of God, and the _____ of his brothers and sisters in Christ. While he is in prison, he couldn’t do the very thing that God had set him apart to do, and that was to _____ the Gospel to the unreached regions of the Gentiles.

“I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.” (Philippians 4:12)

Paul had been brought low, was facing hunger, and was in great need. And yet how does he respond? With _____. And a prayer that wasn’t just focused on himself and his own _____, but on the welfare of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

When we’re going through _____ and troubles, when everything is “_____” or when things are going well, It’s not all about _____. It’s not all about our plans, desires, or comforts. It’s all about _____ and His glory. It’s about what God’s doing in the lives of His people.

Paul’s prayer here, is an expression of both _____ on God and _____ for others.

Prayer puts our lives and circumstances in the context of a _____ picture. It puts it in the context of God’s _____, His glory, and His work of _____.

Paul doesn’t just stop with prayer, but goes beyond that to _____ and minister to them.

Despite Paul’s circumstances, the Gospel is _____.

As he continues to love and serve others, he can face his own challenges and burdens with an infectious _____ and contentment. This kind of _____ begins with our prayer life.

In our difficulties and challenges, in the unknowns of our lives, we’re shouldn’t just focus on _____ and our own needs, but on the needs of others.

Love is the _____ of Christian community—of our life together

A Prayer _____.

“It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of

Christ you may be pure and blameless.” (Philippians 1:9-10)

Paul’s prayer was a prayer of _____ for the Philippians, and also for a specific type of love to be at _____ among them.

Agape = love =

Agape love, often considered the _____ form of love, refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another person’s highest good. It embodies selflessness, _____, and unconditional care for others, and _____ mere feelings, emphasizing action and commitment.

Agape love isn’t _____ new teachings or novel ideas. It doesn’t come at the expense of _____, but instead approves what is excellent. “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

The fruit of righteousness is a manner of life _____ of the Gospel. It’s humility, _____, compassion, and _____.

And as he gives us each word about this kind of love, he’s giving us another layer, another _____, another development of what Christian love is. He’s showing us that it involves the _____, the head, the hands and feet; that it extends _____ to others, but is also directed upward to God in praise and glory.

Paul isn’t praying that they’d come to love one another like this, but that the love they already _____ and show to each other would abound and grow.

We love in order to build _____. We love in order to help one another and to bear one another’s _____.

We love each other so that we can get to know each other better and so that we can get _____ in each other’s lives. Love is a matter of the _____. It’s commanded.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

The _____ of our relationships in the church is love.

If we _____ this or get it wrong, then even why _____? We’ll just get frustrated and _____ ourselves from people who are difficult to love. We’ll surround ourselves with people who are more like us and with whom we have more in _____.

These are all _____ affinities and natural connections that can be flimsy, _____, and one-dimensional.

The love that Paul prays about here, is _____. It’s formed by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It’s formed by _____ and by the work of the Holy Spirit. This sort of love is what brings _____ people together. This sort of love _____ for the long haul. It lasts forever and it brings glory to God.

“...having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:11)

Those of us who are _____, are united to one another in love. As our love grows for Christ and as we grow in _____, our love will grow for one another.

We grow in our love for one another when we view each other from the perspective of Christ’s _____; when we see one another for what God is doing through the work of the Holy Spirit: working to accomplish His complete _____, smoothing our edges, making us like Christ, and to bringing us into glory.

This requires _____, _____, and _____. It requires us to see each other as God sees us—as a _____ work—and to persevere and grow in our love for one another.

Do I pray like this? Do I pray like Paul prays?

Notes: