



LIVING THE GOSPEL TOGETHER
A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

SESSION 1

Gospel Partnership

Text: Philippians 1:1–11

Focus: Living the gospel together begins with shared faith and prayer

Big Idea: God forms gospel-shaped community through partnership, not isolation.

Series Introduction

Philippians is a letter written by the apostle Paul from prison to a church he dearly loves. Unlike many of Paul's letters, it addresses no major doctrinal crisis. Instead, it reveals what healthy gospel partnership looks like—joyful, humble, united, and Christ-centered.

This opening passage establishes the foundation for the entire letter:

- Who the church is
- What binds believers together
- How the gospel shapes relationships

Before Paul gives commands, he gives **gratitude** and **prayer**—because gospel living flows from grace.

Introduction: (Pastoral & Contextual)

The church in Philippi was Paul's **first European church plant** (Acts 16). It was born through suffering, opposition, and miraculous grace. From the beginning, this church partnered with Paul financially, prayerfully, and relationally.

Now Paul writes from prison—likely in Rome—not asking for pity, but expressing joy. His joy is not rooted in comfort, but in shared gospel life.

This passage teaches us that the gospel does not merely save individuals; it creates a community shaped by grace, affection, and mission.

In-depth Exegesis of Philippians 1:1–11

Verse 1 – Gospel Identity

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.”

- Paul identifies himself not by title, but by servanthood.
- “Saints” refers to all believers, not a spiritual elite.
- Leadership is acknowledged, but the emphasis is on shared identity in Christ.

Theological Insight: The gospel equalizes believers. Leaders serve; saints belong; Christ reigns.

Verse 2 – Gospel Grace

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Grace always comes before peace.
- Peace is not emotional calm, but restored relationship with God.

Theological Insight: True peace flows only from grace received.

Verses 3–5 – Gospel Partnership

“I thank my God... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

- Paul's joy is rooted in people, not circumstances.
- “Partnership” (koinōnia) implies shared mission, sacrifice, and commitment.

Theological Insight: Christian fellowship is not social—it is missional.

Verse 6 – Gospel Confidence

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

- God initiates salvation.
- God sustains growth.
- God completes redemption.

Theological Insight: Our assurance rests in God's faithfulness, not our performance.



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In-depth Exegesis of Philippians 1:1–11 Contd.

Verses 7–8 – Gospel Affection

“I hold you in my heart... I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

- Paul’s love is not sentimental; it is Christ-shaped.
- Gospel partnership produces deep affection, not shallow connection.

Theological Insight: To love the church is to share the heart of Christ.

Verses 9–11 – Gospel Prayer

Paul prays for:

- Love that grows (not stagnates)
- Discernment (truth-shaped wisdom)
- Purity and fruitfulness
- God’s glory, not human praise

Theological Insight: Gospel prayer aims at transformed lives for God’s glory.

Study Questions

1. What stands out to you about how Paul describes himself and the church?

2. Why does Paul emphasize partnership rather than individual faith?

3. How does verse 6 shape our understanding of spiritual growth?

4. What does this passage teach us about assurance of salvation?

5. Why is affection essential to gospel partnership?

6. How does Paul’s prayer differ from how we often pray?

7. What does “discernment” look like in everyday Christian life?

8. How do love and truth work together in Paul’s prayer?

9. In what ways does this passage challenge modern views of church?

10. What would change if your church truly lived out gospel partnership?



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Key Doctrines Highlighted

- Union with Christ
- Perseverance of the saints
- Sanctification
- The nature of Christian fellowship
- God's sovereignty in salvation

Personal Application

- Examine how you view the church: consumer or partner?
- Reflect on whether your joy is rooted in Christ's work in others.
- Ask where God is calling you to deeper gospel commitment.

Personal Challenge:

Where have you benefited from the gospel without fully sharing in its work?

Reflective Practice

Journaling Prompt:

- Who has God placed in your life as gospel partners?
- Where is God still "working" in you?

Silence Practice (2–3 minutes):

- Sit quietly with Philippians 1:6.
- Rest in God's promise to complete His work.

Points for Prayer

Personal Prayer

- Gratitude for God's saving and sustaining grace
- Growth in love and discernment

Church Prayer

- Unity rooted in the gospel
- Faithful partnership in mission

Mission Prayer

- Gospel advance through shared sacrifice
- Perseverance for believers facing hardship

Closing Summary

Living the gospel together begins when God's grace forms a people who love deeply, pray faithfully, and partner joyfully for His glory.