

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL, PART 2

Philippians 1:3-8

I. FELLOWSHIP IS INTERCESSION - Prayer for fellow Believers (vv. 3-4)

The reasons for Paul's joy in praying for his fellow believers...

1. Their Common Salvation
2. Their Care for his State
3. Their Commission to Share the Word

II. FELLOWSHIP IS INVOLVEMENT - Participation in the Church (v. 5)

Paul's admonition to participate in the fellowship included

1. Caring for others (vv. 3-4)
2. Giving to the work of the fellowship & to meet the needs of the poor
3. Prayer for others (v. 4)
4. Sharing Christ with others (v. 5)
5. Teaching others, or learning with others (v. 6)
6. Using your spiritual gift

III. FELLOWSHIP IS INSTRUCTION - Progression in Spiritual Maturity (v. 6)

Regarding salvation

1. God Commenced it ... *he who has begun*
2. God Continues it ... *will complete it*
3. God Consummates it ... *until the day of Jesus Christ*

IV. FELLOWSHIP IS INSPIRATION - Partnership of Affection (vv. 7-8)

What does it mean to have others *in [your] heart*?

-Jer. 17:9-10

-Prov. 4:23; 3:5-6

-2 Cor. 7:1-4

-Rom. 5:5

Ten things that rob us of our joy, which will inevitably diminish our affection toward other believers (John MacArthur) ...

1. False Salvation
2. The Influence of Satan and demons (1 Pet. 5:8)
3. An inadequate understanding of God's sovereignty (Rom. 8:28)
4. Prayerlessness steals your joy (James 5:14-16; Phil. 4:6)
5. Emotional lows following spiritual highs (1 Kings 18, 19)
6. A horizontal rather than vertical focus (Phil. 4:11-13); this could also be simply a lack of faith.
7. Ingratitude (Phil. 4:6-7; Rom. 1:18-21)
8. Forgetfulness, or leaving your first love (Ps. 103:2; Rev. 2:4-5)
9. Uncontrolled feelings, living in the flesh and not the Spirit; we might say "unconfessed sin" (2 Cor. 7:1, 9-11; Eph. 5:1-21)
10. Unwillingness to receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9)