

# Love God and Others: Love is the Root, Joy is the Fruit

## LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Everyone wants to be happy. It is one of our deepest longings and a fundamental desire of our hearts. The problem is we tend to look for happiness in the wrong places – money, career, marriage – without realizing that the happiness these things bring us is finite. So where do we find true happiness? God gives us the answer in the book of Philippians.

Many people consider Paul's letter to the Philippians to be the book of joy, but this book goes beyond that. The true foundation of Philippians lies in the intimate relationship that the Apostle Paul had with God, the subsequent relationship he had with others, and how his love for both God and others produced joy. Love and joy are inseparable because they are the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:22). Loving God produces a love for others, and when we love God and others, it allows us to experience true joy. We learn how we can best love others in Philippians 1.

## Prayer

Paul wrote his letter to the saints, which means people set apart for God, overseers, and deacons in the Philippian church (vv. 1-2). The church in Philippi was near and dear to the heart of Paul, and he loved them so much that he often prayed for them (vv. 3-4). Prayer is one of the best ways to show our love for people. But love doesn't stop with those we like. Matthew 5:44 not only tells us to love our enemies, but it is also immediately followed by the command to pray for them. Love prays unceasingly, even if it means praying for decades so we can see the Lord at work in their hearts and lives. Love prays because it desires God's best for others.

## Encouragement

We encourage the people that we love. Paul was a great encourager to the Philippians, affirming them of their

partnership with him in the work of the gospel (vv. 5,7), and sharing with them his confidence that God would complete His good work in them (v. 6). Oftentimes, it can be our default attitude to be discouraging rather than encouraging, we see the bad in people instead of the potential. Encouragement isn't just about saying nice things. It's choosing words that build up rather than tear down (Ephesians 4:29). We find what we focus on. Love encourages others by seeing what they can become in Christ.

## Perspective

Our perspective shapes our past and future. Not only does our perspective affect the way we view God, but it also affects the way we view others, and it influences the way we think, feel, and act. Having the right perspective means viewing our circumstances the lens of God's word, promises, and character. Problems will inevitably overwhelm us when we have a small view of God, but the right perspective of God allows us to push fear aside and trust that God is with us no matter what. Paul, despite being imprisoned for his faith, chose to see his suffering as an opportunity to share Jesus (Philippians 1:12-14). No matter what circumstances you face today, trust that God causes all things to work together for our good, for His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Experiencing true joy comes out of loving God and loving others. Love is the root; joy is the fruit.

## last week's memory verse

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

PHILIPPIANS 1:9

## discuss this message

- How is your prayer life? In what ways can you demonstrate dependence on God through prayer as you care for the people around you?
- In what practical ways can you be an encourager? How can you be intentional about uplifting those around you?
- How should God's love shape your perspective?
- Are you facing any challenges right now? How will you interpret and respond to your difficulties through God's perspective?

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you can be a new you.

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## step into the the community

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

### WOW Thursdays 2025 Kickoff

February 20, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED ONLINE

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B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

### B1G Fridays Love Series

Session 1: The Foundation of Love:  
Redefining Love Through God's Eyes

February 14, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

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NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

### Love Connection

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM  
G/F CCF Center (ages 4-12)

ZOOM: for ages 7-12; 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM  
message us at [facebook.com/ccfnxtgen](https://www.facebook.com/ccfnxtgen)  
to sign up

ONLINE: Bible Lesson Video Premiere  
9:00 AM at ccfnxtgen

## learn more about our faith

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

### Be equipped in your discipleship journey!

GLC Level 1 Face-to-Face and  
Zoom Classes will resume in March 2025.

GLC Level 2

Book 7: Family Life, Session 1

ONSITE: February 16, Sunday

1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: February 20, Thursday, 7:30 PM

### Can't attend GLC F2F or GLC Zoom?

Use the Self-Paced Online format  
or do GLC in your DGroups!

BE PART OF GLC: [linktr.ee/ccfglc](https://linktr.ee/ccfglc)

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here  
for His purpose.

### God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful  
life with Him in the present and gain  
eternal life with Him in the future.

Know therefore that the Lord your God,  
He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps**  
**His covenant and His lovingkindness** to  
a thousandth generation with those who  
love Him and keep His commandments  
– Deuteronomy 7:9

### God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us  
from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from  
God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

### God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for  
us to be reconciled to Him: through His  
son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the  
cross for our sins and be raised to life for  
eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love  
toward us, in that while we were yet  
sinners, Christ died for us. Much more  
then, having now been justified by His  
blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of  
God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life;  
no one comes to the Father but through  
Me. – John 14:6

### God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we  
are forgiven of our sins and saved from  
eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever  
believes in Him shall not perish, but have  
eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through  
faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift  
of God; not as a result of works, so that no  
one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus  
Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I  
am a sinner. I believe that You died on  
the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your  
help, I will turn away from my sins. Please  
come into my life and be my Savior and  
my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal  
life. Make me the kind of new person You  
want me to be. Thank You for giving me  
eternal life. Amen.

### God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life  
when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has  
given us eternal life, and this life is in His  
Son. He who has the Son has the life; he  
who does not have the Son of God does  
not have the life. These things I have  
written to you who believe in the name of  
the Son of God, so that you may know that  
you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13

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## Services at the CCF Center

### Saturdays

5:00 PM

### Sundays

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN,  
and 3:00 PM

### Online Livestream

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9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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