

Learning to Love Christians

Paul's Thanksgiving and Affection for the Philippians in 1:3-8. **Part 3, v7-8**

Introduction

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

#1 Thank God for CHRIST in them 3

1st PRAYING for them with Joy 4

2nd Rejoicing over their LOYALTY to Christ 5

#2 Remember God is not FINISHED with them yet 6

#3 Have a Truthful _____ about them 7

FEEL

IT IS RIGHT

ABOUT YOU ALL

I HAVE YOU IN MY HEART

Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

MY IMPRISONMENT

DEFENSE

CONFIRMATION

YOU ALL ARE PARTAKERS OF GRACE WITH ME

Philippians 1:29-30 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me

#4 Be _____ 8a

Ephesians 4:25 laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. James 5:12 let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.

#5 Allow Christ's affections to be _____ through you 8b

Romans 5:5 the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

LONGING

AFFECTION

1st _____ your heart

2nd Rely upon _____ to love through you

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3rd Don't _____ the extent of HIS love

The affection of Christ Jesus ... expresses a yearning that is as much physical as mental, a longing love, which moves the whole inner being. But what a remarkable expression Paul uses! He loves them "in the inner being of Christ Jesus." Certainly this means that he patterns his love for them on that of Christ... but the wording demand something more than the notion of "imitation." Paul is saying ... he has so advanced in union with Christ that it is as if Christ were expressing His love through Paul. Two hearts are beating as one—indeed one heart, the greater, has taken over and the emotional constitution of Christ Himself has taken possession of His servant.

1-Emotions overflow from a correct _____

2-Make _____

3-Turn to _____ to be able to enjoy Christians

QUESTIONS TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN CHRISTLIKENESS - BECOME A DOER OF THE WORD...

- 1-Why did Paul write the words of verses 7-8 to the Philippians back then, and how does it apply to us today?
- 2-What is a righteous MINDSET, and why is it so important to loving others?
- 3-Why does God consider trials a GRACE, and how can we begin to view hardships as expressions of God's Grace?
- 4-What does it mean practically to be SINCERE with another believer?
- 5-Do you have AFFECTIONS for believers *not in your family*? How do you grow in affections towards believers?