



Sermon Notes

Topic: Living in Partnership – Better Together

Preacher: Ps Paul Curtis

Bible Passage: Philippians 1: 3-11

Date: Sunday 10th August 2025

Study Guide Overview

- Genuine relationship within the church family is important (v3-4)
- This is built on the work of God, we have the affection of Christ (v7-8)
- For He draws us together in partnership to achieve His purposes (v5)
- All the time we need to be gracious, God is still shaping each of us (v6)
- As we live out our life in love and righteousness (v9-11)

Small Group Questions/Discussions

What does “genuine relationship” look like in a church family? Does it mean we are all best friends? What are the true characteristics of believers living in love and unity?

Paul says this love, isn’t based on human expression, but rather the affection of Jesus. Share together the limitations of human affection. What is so different about the “affection of Christ”? Discuss your response to this statement – **spending time together is important, but spending more time with Jesus is what produces a healthy church family environment**

Why do we sometimes feel like we are not fully in “partnership” with the church? In what ways can our attitude be the challenge here? Do you think we understand that wherever we are serving God, that even ministries unconnected to the church, are still a means of being in partnership with the church community? How does this change things when we consider various ministries that we support, knowing we are a part of what they are doing?

Genuine relationships within the church family require great measures of grace. How should we view others in line of that fact, that God is still “shaping” them? How can our own experiences help us accept and understand others?

Paul’s prayer in v9-11 is powerful. Yet we don’t always understand what he means. Growing in knowledge and righteousness is not the answer in themselves. Both require a “working out” Knowledge is only useful when it is lived out. Righteousness is not just a state of mind, but it is the way we live. How is God challenging you in both of these aspects?