

Sunday, March 27, 2022

## LOVE in Context

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### Philippians 1:1-11

#### INTRO

The epistle, which means letter, to the church in Philippi is a joyous letter. "Rejoice" is mentioned 9x's in 4 short chapters along with "Gospel" which is good news. Joy 5x's and the overall vibe is encouraging.

How many of us could use some encouragement? This letter, written through Paul by the Holy Spirit to the church in Philippi, is for us as well.

**"JOY in Context"** is what I'm calling the sermon series as we walk verse by verse through Philippians. Why? It seems The Apostle Paul, the author of this letter, not only exemplifies joy towards the church, but gives context for it. Paul is in jail when he writes, (Vs. 7, *for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel*) yet he says things like "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." I think could be a challenge for us, since a little unplanned traffic jam on the 101 could strip us of all joy and contentment and thoroughly ruin our day.

It seems it's common to say we ought not have joy in circumstances. Our joy comes from outside our circumstances. Our joy comes from Christ. But it is more proper to say this... Our true joy comes from the right circumstances. What we really mean by saying, "Our joy doesn't come from our circumstances" is it does not come from worldly circumstances.

**Circumstance; a fact or condition connected with or relevant to an event or action.**

We have joy in Christ, which by definition his actions brought about a condition which is factually relevant to live a life worth living.

Simply said, It's finding joy in Jesus AND having joy in what God finds joy in. We will find as we journey through this letter that spiritual growth is a great source of joy.

My main point from Philippians 1:1-11 is **LOVE in Context**

**Vs. 1-2** Doesn't say Title. Apostle Paul

-“Pastor” Bobby vs Bobby

**Vs. 3-8** Just the thought of them brings joy. Why? Because of their Gospel faithfulness! It had been approximately 10-12 years from when he planted this church to when he wrote this letter. They supported him financially and were not ashamed of his chains. They were with him!

-Gospel faithfulness brings Gospel assurance. Which speaks to spiritual growth!

**-LOVE in Context**

-GOSPEL FAITHFULNESS

-Application

Vs. 9-11. Prayer

Love may abound-Grow

So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush.<sup>1</sup> [The Message](#)

Knowledge and discernment give a holistic view; not just logical, not just experiential, but both.

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<sup>1</sup> Peterson, E. H. (2005) [The Message: the Bible in contemporary language](#) (Php 1:9–10) Colorado Springs, CO:

What is Love in Context?

### 1. Obedience

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 1 John 5:3-4

### 2. For God.

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

### 3. For others

“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:39-40

Good Samaritan

What does this love look like?

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8