

## **Philippians Discussion Questions**

### ***Philippians 1:1-8***

- Compare and contrast Paul's thankfulness for financial support with today's preachers, pastors and televangelists. How do you think Paul is different?
- Why do you think God chooses unlikely people like Lydia and the Roman jailer (Acts 16) to encourage Paul and accomplish his purposes?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as too unlikely or ordinary to be used by God? Why or why not?
- Consider how Paul and the Philippians encouraged and supported each other. How can we as a church, a small group and a local body of Christ encourage and support each other?
- Does Paul's thankfulness or the Philippians generosity change your view of financially supporting those in ministry? Why or why not?

### ***Philippians 1:9-11***

- What did you learn about prayer from Paul's prayer for the Philippians?
- What do your prayers tell you about what is most on your heart at this point in your life?
- Do you see a connection between knowledge, discernment and love in your journey as a Christian? Why or why not?
- If you were going to pray for your best friend using Paul's prayer as a model, what would you pray for?

### ***Philippians 1:12-26***

- Have you seen the Lord act in surprising ways when you were in a difficult circumstance?
- Have you seen the Lord work through ministries or people that appeared to have mixed motives? If so, what did that teach you?
- What makes you "bold to speak the word without fear?" What hinders that boldness? How can we encourage each other to boldly speak without fear?
- Do you envy the success of the ministry of others? If so, how do you handle it? What gives you a better perspective?
- How do you think Paul's perspective on life and death differs from our culture today?
- What circumstances in your life can cause you to believe that God's purposes are thwarted? What helps you see otherwise?

### ***Philippians 1:27-2:4***

- How much unity do you think we have in the church today? Why? What could we do to improve unity?
- If you've been called to suffer for being a Christian, what helped you stand firm? What can we do to encourage each other to stand firm?
- Do you think your "manner of life is worthy of the gospel of Christ"? Why or why not?
- What encourages you to "count others more significant than yourself"? What makes it harder?

### ***Philippians 2:5-11***

- What attitudes or situations can cause division in relationships in your life whether at home, in the workplace, or in the church?
- How does Christ's model of humility motivate you towards humility?
- Do you think having this same attitude Christ had is a realistic goal? Why or why not?
- Has anyone displayed this kind of humble, self-sacrifice for you in your life? If so, what did you learn from it?

### ***Philippians 2:12-18***

- What does it look like in your life for you to "work out your salvation"?
- Does "fear and trembling" characterize your relationship with the Lord? Why or why not?
- Does grumbling and complaining characterize your life? Why or why not? Have you changed in this area?
- How have other Christians been "lights" in your darkness?
- What helps you "hold fast to the word of life"? How can we encourage each other in this area?

### ***Philippians 2:19-30***

- Who are your kindred spirits? How do you encourage each other?
- Has God ever brought you a kindred spirit in a person you least expected to be one? What happened?
- What kind of people do you hold in high regard? Why?
- What did you learn about leadership and/or mentoring from Paul's relationships with Timothy and Epaphroditus?

### ***Philippians 3:1-11***

- Why do you think Paul uses such strong language to describe his opponents? Do you think he is justified in using such language? Why or why not?
- When you became a believer, how did your attitude change about your prior accomplishments? If at all?
- On what grounds do you think we should disagree with other religions and philosophies?
- Were there any times in your spiritual life that you "put confidence in the flesh"? How do you view those times now?

### ***Philippians 3:12-21***

- What goals are you pursuing? How do they reflect your identity as a citizen of heaven?
- How does your heavenly citizenship impact your perspective on life today?
- What helps you have the right perspective? What hinders you in having the right perspective?
- Who are the people in your life whom you can observe and follow their godly example? What have you learned from them?

### ***Philippians 4:1-23***

- How do you typically handle conflict among fellow believers? Why?
- What have you learned from times of lack in your life? And times of abundance?
- What makes it hard to be content in your life? What encourages you to be content?
- What helps you rejoice in the Lord? How can we encourage others in this joy?