

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## 1-7-07 - "The Philippi Church of Christ – More Love"

**OPEN:** Read Philippians 1:1-2 - *Paul's Greeting*.

- Brainstorm everything we can know about the church at Philippi from this greeting? About Paul?
- Can you tell who Paul's attention is primarily on through these 2 verses? (*Jesus cited 3x*)
  - What can we know about Jesus Christ through these 2 verses? (*He can be served - vs. 1; "Saints" are "in" him - vs. 1; Grace and peace are from him - vs. 2; He is "the Lord" - vs. 2*)

**DIG & APPLY-**

- Read Philippians 1:3-8 – *Paul's Affection*
  - What stands out to you about this passage?
  - Get inside of Paul's heart as he writes this. How does he feel about these people and how do you know from the text?
    - What causes a person to feel this way about other people?
    - Do you feel this way about any group of people in your life? Who and why?
  - Get inside of the Philippian church's heart. How do you think they feel being loved so much by Paul?
    - Do you have anyone that you believe feels this way towards you in your life? Who and why?
- Read Philippians 1:9-11 – *Paul's Prayer*
  - Vs. 9 - What do you think it means for "love to abound more and more *in knowledge and depth of insight*"?
    - How is it possible to have love that is lacking in knowledge?
    - How is it possible to have knowledge that is lacking in love?
  - Vs. 10a – Why is it important for Christians to be able to discern what is "best"?
    - Why use the word "best" or "excellent" rather than the word "good" or "right"? What is the difference?
    - How would "love abounding more" help the people be able to discern what is best?
  - Vs. 10b – How would "love abounding more" help the people be more "pure and blameless"?
  - Vs. 11 – What is "the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ"?
    - Today's English Version says, "*Your lives will be filled with the truly good qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce.*"
    - Would the qualities from our last year's "Restoration of Discipleship" series be a good list of these qualities? What qualities of Jesus Christ that we have looked at over the last year do you need more of? (*peaceful, joyful, passionate, called, relationally surrendered, compassionate, spirit-led, Biblically grounded, free, forgiving, etc...*)
    - How would "love abounding more" help people be filled with this fruit?

**PRAY: Paul's Purpose** - Paul finishes verse 11 with the idea that his prayer for the Philippians is ultimately for "the glory and praise of God." Pray the prayer of vs. 9-11 over your group, as a group, and that God would get glory and praise because of them.