

**Philippians 1:1-11 “Gospel Partnership”**

- 1) People v1-3   People who believe the good news**
- 2) Praise v4-8   and who share in the good news...**
- 3) Prayer v9-11 ...are to grow even deeper into the good news (in love & understanding)**



**Here are some questions to help us grow into a “Jesus mindset”, which will be the title for the series of sermons from Philippians. It’s one of the most encouraging of Paul’s letters...**

- 1. What do we know about the situation and church makeup in Philippi from Acts 16:11-40? How are we similar/different?**
- 2. Split the group into four- and each group scan through one chapter each. Are there any themes that emerge?** (Why not read it all in one sitting some time. I’ve put 4 ideas over the page for you to read in your own time, you will spot others).
- 3. What difference does Paul’s identity and situation (1:13) make to the way we read the book? How about the Philippians situation (1:28. 4:2)?**
- 4. Paul speaks of Gospel Partnership. What do you think he means by that (see also 4:14-19), and what might it look like in your life?**
- 5. What exactly is Paul praying for? What does it lead to? Spend a moment praying it for you, your friends, and lifegroup.**

**Some resources...**

- Turn over for a little introduction to some themes in **Philippians**.
- We had a **sermon** on Phil 1:1-11 as part of our series Real Change, if you’d like to go into a little more depth than the all-age sermon today did. It can be found at [https://christchurchhuntingdon.co.uk/Groups/399932/Real\\_Change.aspx](https://christchurchhuntingdon.co.uk/Groups/399932/Real_Change.aspx).
- Here is the **Bible Project’s** introduction and helpful diagrammatic representation of Philippians, also showing how central Phil 2:6-11 is in the book: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-philippians/>
- Click here for a **wordsearch** on Philippians!  
[https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws\\_Philippians\\_0.htm](https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_Philippians_0.htm)

## **An introduction to four brief themes in Philippians...**

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel Phil 1:27.*

### **A “JESUS MINDSET”...**

The word mind (2:2) or mindset (2:5) comes up a couple of times in the book, particularly in the famous chapter 2, when Paul is calling upon the Philippians to have the same humble and other-person-centred thinking of Jesus (also exemplified in Timothy 2:19-24 and Epaphroditus in 2:25-30). The same “mindset” word is also translated *feel* 1:7, *view* 3:15, *mind* 3:19 and 4:2 and *concern* 4:10. It will be fantastic to pray for one another (using perhaps the prayer of 1:9-11) that we will have this “Jesus mindset”. We can pray that the good news of Jesus’ identity (before whom every knee will bow, 2:10), his gift of righteousness (which trumps all worldly forms of status, 3:7-8) and the many reasons he gives us to rejoice even when circumstances are hard (1:18, 4:4), will help us to stand together in partnership in the gospel, becoming more like him each day.

### **PARTNERSHIP...**

The Greek word *koinonia* (meaning fellowship or partnership) comes up in different ways in 1:4, 1:7, 2:1 and 4:14 (translated “partnership” or “sharing”). Paul had a deep relationship with these Macedonian churches, and they were commended for their financial generosity in 2 Cor 8:1-4 above and beyond their means. This theme will be really helpful to us as we consider how we can partner together in the work of loving Jesus, loving one another and loving Huntingdon at CCH. Not only in formal roles on the rota, or generous giving, but in all the small acts of love that happen between church and lifegroup members as we seek to do everything without arguing or grumbling (2:14).

### **SUFFERING...**

Paul is suffering as he writes this letter (likely from a prison in Rome in around AD 62), though he can speak of many benefits that come from that (1:12-26). The Philippians are also likely facing some sort of opposition (1:28) as they seek to live out their faith in the only Lord and Saviour in a very Roman town that would have pressed for loyalty to Caesar. Many in our church are suffering in different ways at the moment. Let’s allow God’s word to help us to see how God can use suffering, but also let’s support and encourage one another as Paul did with the Philippians and the Philippians did with him.

### **UNITY...**

Paul calls the Philippians to stand together as one (1:27) and to be like-minded (2:2). When a church is under pressure, it’s so easy to let relationships suffer, and for little things to get between brothers and sisters (as was obviously happening for Euodia & Syntyche- two workers who had fallen out). In the place of grumbling and arguing, Paul calls for abounding love (v9) and bags of joy! (1:4, 1:18, 1:25, 2:2, 2:18, 2:29, 4:1, 4:4). We have a wonderfully united church, but the book will help a Christ-centred unity to grow despite difference, finding common ground that overcomes relational difficulties.

***As you read through Philippians in your own time you’ll spot these and other themes.***