

PRAY FOR LOVE

PHILEMON 4-7

11-3-24

I. WHAT DOES PAUL PRAY FOR?

- A. Paul prays for Philemon to have love**
- B. Paul prays for this love to be encouraged**

II. PAUL PRAYS TO ENCOURAGE PHILEMON'S LOVE FOR ALL

Philemon 5 – "...because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints..."

- A. Out of our love for God we are enabled to love others**
- B. Paul encourages Philemon's love for ALL the saints**
 - Especially difficult people (Onesimus)

III. PAUL PRAYS TO ENCOURAGE PHILEMON'S LOVE TO BEAR FRUIT

Philemon 6 (NASB) – "...and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for the sake of Christ."

- A. Effective THROUGH knowledge**
 - Knowledge (epignosis) – experiential knowledge
- B. Paul prays for Philemon to demonstrate love in forgiveness**
- C. Paul points to this in his own life – John Mark (Philemon 23)**
- D. The fruit of love in the church = the Gospel is more EFFECTIVELY displayed**

IV. WHY DOES PAUL PRAY THIS FOR THE CHURCH?

- A. Paul has experienced the effect of love**
 - Joy, comfort, and refreshment
- B. Our love for one another is a portrait of the Gospel changing everything**

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is love such an important thing for the church to have? Can it be a bad thing? How do we balance love well in the church?
3. Why is it so difficult for us to love one another? What are some ways that this is made easier in our lives?
4. Why do you think it was important for Paul to highlight Philemon's love for God first before highlighting his love for others?
5. Why is it important for us to be praying for love?
6. Look again at Philemon 7 and how Paul highlights the effects of love. Have you experienced these effects from someone else loving you well?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group be praying for you to accomplish that?

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

- Pray that love would abound here at MCC
- Pray that God would enrich the body here at MCC through our love for one another
- Pray that others would see the love we have for one another and be challenged by it
- Pray that the love we show would demonstrate that the Gospel changes everything