

PRAYING FOR ABOUNDING LOVE

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

9-22-24

I. PRAY FOR ABOUNDING LOVE

A. Increasing means we have not arrived

- Not even Paul

Philippians 3:12-14 - "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

B. Abounding in love for God

- Any love for God that is not expressed in a love for others is a false love!

1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

C. We must ORDER OUR LOVES

II. HOW DOES LOVE ABOUND?

Philippians 1:9 - "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment..."

A. Love abounds with knowledge (v.9a)

B. Love abounds with discernment (v.9b)

III. RESULT OF LOVE ABOUNDING

Philippians 1:10 - "...so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

A. We approve what is Excellent (v.10a)

B. We are Pure and Blameless (v.10b)

- Filled with Fruit (v.11)

Galatians 5:22 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

C. God is Glorified in the Church

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What percentage of your prayer life is concerned with eternal things and spiritual fruit? Do you think your prayers should change? Why or why not?
3. In what areas does MCC love well? How can our love abound more and more at church or in our community?
4. How can church be a catalyst for you to grow in your love for God and others?
5. Paul expressed his love for the people in the church by praying for them. How are you doing at loving people through prayer? How do we love people better in our prayer times?
6. Why is discerning love so important in our world today? Have you ever prayed for discernment on how to love someone better? How so?
7. Biblical love does not encourage or foster sin...how does the world's definition of love differ from this? How do we model/explain/teach the world what true love is?
8. What is one thing from the message or the Community group time that you can live out this week?

PRAY OVER OUR CHURCH

- Pray that God would continue to increase His love in our church!
- Pray that we would grow in our understanding and discernment of His great love!
- Pray that we would be spiritually discerning in our difficult and confusing days
- Pray that the fruit of righteousness would be evident in our lives and church
- Pray that our church would bring glory and praise to the name of God!