

Philippians (1 of 8)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, August 11th, 2024



Series Focus: In his final days on earth, the Apostle Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the church in Philippi from a prison cell in Rome. What does it look like to be faithful to Jesus in a world of competing allegiances? Is it possible for the church to remain calm, be at peace, and live with joy in a society that is seriously lacking it? And how do we live as “citizens of heaven” in a world seemingly going to hell? In this series, we will be encouraged to view all of life through the lens of the cross and to live out our faith together in humility, service, and love—all the while anticipating the Lord’s return.

Sermon Title: Our Affections on Display

Scripture Reading: Psalm 7:17; Acts 16:11-40; Philippians 1:1-11

Sermon Focus: Paul’s affections for Christ and the church in Philippi are apparent from the very beginning of his letter. But for us to understand his affections, we need to recall his journey and his close relationship with the Philippians. In the first message of our series, Pastor David invites us to reflect on the location and context of Paul’s letter, and then encourages us to put our own affections for Christ and each other on display.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by giving us a good deal of background and context on the Roman colony of Philippi. He also shared the beginnings of the church in Philippi as recorded in Acts 16:11-40. What did you find most helpful about this background information? What was new or spoke to you?
2. Take a few minutes for each of you to read Philippians 1:1-11 silently in your group. Then have someone read the passage aloud. What words or phrases stand out to you? If/since Paul is using the introduction to hint at where he is going in his letter, what themes do you see in these first 11 verses?
3. Notice how the Apostle Paul is quick to show his affection for the church in Philippi. He has a long history with this congregation. And they have been faithful partners in sharing the gospel and following Jesus in their community. What thoughts do you have about how Paul expresses his love for them?
4. Be honest and ask yourself: "Is my love and affection for Jesus greater than my love for other people, material things, my country, my own comfort, etc.?" How might a person make this assessment? What is the evidence of your affections?
5. Does showing affection come easy for you, or is it a challenge? Explain. How is God inviting you to show your affection for Christ and his gospel among your family, friends, and co-workers? How might you need to grow in this area?
6. Related to the question above, respond to the following question: "How is God inviting me to show affection for our church? Who do I need to express my love and appreciation for?" What or who is God bringing to your mind?
7. Finally, share any last thoughts or comments on how God spoke to you through the message. And then close in prayer together. Ask God to help each of you, including the rest of our church family, put our affections for Christ and each other on display for others to see, so that it might edify and build up the Body.