

LifeGroup Meeting

Joy Ride 3
“The Joy of Affection”

Get To Know You Question:

What is the most important thing in your life right now?

Let's Dig Deeper

1. Someone read **Philippians 1:7-11**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you?
2. As we concluded Paul's elements of Joy, spend a couple minutes recapping each one.
 - How would you define and how are doing on the Joy of Recollection (phil 1:3)
 - How would you define and how are doing on the Joy of Intercession (phil 1:4)
 - How would you define and how are doing on the Joy of Partnership (phil 1:5)
 - How would define and how are doing on the Joy of Anticipation (phil 1:6)
3. **The Joy of Affection (Phil 1:8)**
 - The word affection in Greek comes from the word “bowels”. Why do you think they thought emotions resided in our bowels?
4. Paul began this section by explaining to the Philippians what he was praying for. If we think about our prayer life in the last three months, how would we define it?
 - Pastor Scott mentioned that prayer is not only an obligation, but it should be an internal compulsion of our hearts towards God and others. What do you think he meant by that.
 - Would you say your prayers recently have been about you, or about others?
5. If we are ever to have the joy of affection for other people, certain things need to happen. Paul mentions that the first thing is to abound more and more in love (Phil 1:9)
 - The word love is agape in Greek. It is a love of the will, the love of choice, not an emotional love. Why is that significant?
 - How would you define the world's love? What makes agape love and the world's love different?

- Because this type of love is a love of choice, we will have to make this choice over and over again. How often do we find it difficult to make the choice to love people with agape love?

6. Knowledge and Discernment (Philippians 1:9)

- How would you define knowledge and discernment?
- For Paul, knowledge has always been about understanding ultimate reality...which is God himself. How often do we seek the knowledge of God?
- Discernment is more than just distinguishing between good and bad, it is more about discerning between what is good and what is the best. What makes this difficult to apply in our lives?
- Someone read **Romans 12:2** and **Philippians 4:8**. What do these verse have in common, and how do they apply to the knowledge and discernment Paul is talking about?
- For most Christians, they work hard on knowledge and discernment, but it is the abounding in love for people that seem to be lacking. Why do you think that is?
- Would you say it is easier to pursue the knowledge of God than it is to love more people? What makes loving people difficult? Shouldn't our knowledge of God motivate us to love more people? Why or why not?
- Where would you rank yourself when it comes to these three: growing in knowledge of God, discerning what is best, abounding in love for other people? Explain.

7. The Greatest Spiritual Challenge

- One of the greatest challenges we will ever face in this life is to seek our reward and validation from God alone. So often, we seek that from other people, often times to our own detriment. Why is it so hard to seek our validation from God and not the people in our lives? What would be the benefit if we did?
 - Why is it so hard to have a heart that is abounding in love for people, with no strings attached?
 - When we look at our lives, would we say we are abounding in love and bringing more and more people into our lives, or do we just have a select few we love, and are content with that? What is holding us back from bringing more people into our lives?
8. What do you think you may need to change in your life if you were to have this joy of affection for people, the way Paul had?
 9. Close in prayer.