

THE JOY OF COMMUNITY

Thinking Points

1. Why is community necessary? What happens when we lack community?
2. What have been some of the benefits of church community in your own life?
3. What is your definition of healthy humility?
4. What are the ripples that a community can have, when they are unified through God's love? What can you do to help build unity in your church community?
5. Paul called the Philippians to unity within diversity. How tolerant are you of diversity within your community?
6. What can we learn from Paul's joy, gratitude and love that he had for his church community, even under house arrest?

Philippians 1:1-11 NIV

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi,
together with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may 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.

Next Steps

1. Follow "GRACEGATECENTRE" on Instagram and Facebook this week and participate in our "Joy challenges."
2. Express your love to someone in your community this week, through an act of kindness.
3. Create a list of people in your church community that you can pray for daily.
4. Use Paul's prayer for the Philippians in chapter 1:9-11 (above) to pray for your community.

DEFIANT
JOY

