

REJOYCE

MESSAGE NOTES

Todd Arnett

September 1, 2019

Pray like Paul did out of a deep love for the people in your relational world

1. Jesus is the **common bond** for His people

Philippians 1:1-2

2. Thankfulness and joy flow from the deep **affection** we're to have for each other

Philippians 1:3-8

Only in prayer to God can there be this consistent gratitude, for prayer with a Godward perspective focuses on God's gracious work in human lives no matter how fallen and needy.

G. Walter Hansen, Pillar New Testament Commentary – The Letter to the Philippians.

The Greek word most often translated as "joy" is *chara* and it means "delight or gladness based on the awareness of God's grace; grace **recognized**"

Joy is an "unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction."

C. S. Lewis

Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and in the world.

John Piper

Joy is " . . . a constant delight in God."

Matthew Henry

If "joy" is based on something that can't be taken away from you – grace that's been demonstrated to you through Jesus – then how can you say that some situation or person is "**stealing** your joy?"

koinonia can be defined as "involving **mutual** interests and sharing"

Philippians 1:6

3. Your love for **others** is expected to grow and grow

Philippians 1:9-11

A love that grows in knowledge and depth of insight is the kind of love that not only deeply benefits others, but **purifies** and cleanses our own lives as we live in a thoughtful, growing love toward one another

Now What?

Pray like Paul did out of a deep love for the people in your relational world

REJOYCE

HOME GROUP NOTES

Welcome to Home Groups

What is a Home Group?

Home Groups are 8-15 people who meet regularly at different times and locations throughout the area. With our fast pace of life, it is difficult to slow down and build real relationships. Home Groups are a place to encourage each other, discuss what we're learning in the Bible, and share life's joys and challenges. They are sometimes described by the phrase "burden-bearing friendships." Our goal is to do life and mission together. If you are interested, our website has more information and a place to apply.

When do they begin?

Most groups will begin the week of September 8, but some may meet this week.

Our commitment to one another

These relationships are important to us, so our community commits to the following TOGETHER:

- **Life-change.** We pursue spiritual growth and life-change in community.
- **Building trust.** We value one another by being real, confidential, and listening to each other.
- **Being reliable.** Relationships don't happen without time together.
- **Open to all.** Every person matters to God and to us. We want all to know they belong here.
- **Trusting God.** God is real, personal, and active. We pray, believing He hears and answers.

Our theme for the year: "We are family."

Long before it was a pop song, Jesus made it clear that He was creating a family. The theme of being family continues throughout the New Testament. There, we are called "brothers and sisters" and taught how to love one another as God loves us. Our lead verse: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." 1 John 3:16

Special challenge for this series

The Bible is God's story, given to transform us and be an authority in our lives. For this series, we're encouraging people to memorize these key passages from the book of Philippians: 1:6; 1:21; 2:3-4; 2:14-16a; 3:8-9; 3:13-14; 4:6-7; 4:19-20.

Home Group Notes

(Special calendar note: Your group may not be meeting until the week of September 8.)

Connections

What are some ways that people might have described your family of origin?

Discuss Together

Because the Bible is God's story, we provide questions that may help us learn together.

What characteristics do you notice about the church in Philippi?

What was at the core of this family? (Philippians 1:3-11)

What are Paul's specific prayer requests for them? (1:9-11)

What would you like your own church family to be known for?

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6

Ask God for understanding, review often, "Rejoyce" in the truth.