

Who Are You Chained To

Philippians 1:12-18

Welcome back and here we go! Last week we started our journey through Philippians, remembering one certain truth, **Philippians 1:6**. God is still working on us. It is okay If you are not perfect. God is still working on you. We make mistakes. But God loves us right where we are.

Today, continuing in Philippians, we will look at our relationships and what we bring to them. But remember, *Philippians* is a book of JOY.

Did anyone count how many times the words “joy”, “rejoicing”, “rejoiced”, etc. come up?

Let’s get to the study:

Philippians 1:12-18

- 1) What stands out to you?

It is believed that at this time Paul was imprisoned in Rome, 60 – 62 AD and that he was under the watch of the Praetorian Guard. Yet Paul found joy in his circumstances. Why? He knew the Gospel was being spread.

- Praetorian Guard • Romans Road • Furtherance of the Gospel.

- 2) How have the things in your life led to the furtherance of the Gospel?

To be spiritually minded: you know everything is spiritual; you are a spiritual being; everything you do has a spiritual consequence.

Often in life we are chained to people ----- in all types of relationships.

We are chained to our spouse, kids, co-workers, in-laws, neighbors, people at church,

_____.

- 3) A) How are you changing them?

- b) How are they changing you?

Outside of closed systems, a place like this creates all kinds of opportunities to change the way we think about relationships. I mean, are you a light or is your light dark?

Matthew 6:22-23

4) How can light be dark?

a) Is it evident you belong to Christ?

b) Are you furthering the Gospel?

Remember you only have victories if you have battles.

It is not a question as to whether we can change people, especially the people we are chained to. It is a question of if they are changing us. Every relationship is either your ministry field or your outlet to the flesh. If it is a ministry field, you produce the fruit. You have empathy.

If I believe every relationship is an opportunity to show up for God, I can look at people differently.

5) Why is it so hard to see people differently?

If I can't, I will never influence them. H.V.P. and D.V.P. will always differ. D.V.P. will always lean towards GRACE.

Are you not being patient, kind, loving? Have you lost peace or joy? I hope not.

Paul says these people are talking bad about me, but I don't care. At least they are talking about Christ. When people talk about you is it because you have all these godly attributes? In all seriousness, we are all known for something. What are you known for?

Philippians 1:18

Paul says twice he is rejoicing for his current situation.

6) How can you find more joy in your relationships?

Philippians 1:3-6

These are very pointed questions but remember we started with fellowship in the Gospel. Paul says take your chains and use them as an opportunity. Be kind, be patient, set a boundary, live generously, show grace, be a light!