

31/05/09 (pm) - Series on Philipppians - Sermon 7

All for One and One for All ... by God's Grace

Philippians 1:7-8

***Theme: By God's grace,
Christians share in each other's life
situations and ministry.***

A. Paul's Attitude toward the Philippian Christians (1:7a-b, 8)

In 1:3-6 Paul states that his relationship with the Philippian Christians, and what God was doing in their lives, facilitated his communion with God.

In 1:7-8 Paul states how his relationship with them resulted in deep Christ-like affection in his own heart toward them.

Look at the terms Paul uses:

- He held the Philippians in his heart (1:7b). *Heart = whole person.*
- He yearned for the Philippians with the affection of Christ (1:8). *Affection literally = inner parts.*

Paul's feelings for the Philippians
are from deep within; he loves
them with the love of Christ.

*Christians should have the same
attitude to other Christians!*

**B. Paul's appreciation that the
Philippian Christians shared in
His life situations and ministry
by God's grace (1:7c)**

The Philippian Christians were
special to Paul, *cf.* 1:5-6.

Another reason is given in 1:7c ...

...He recognised and appreciated the truth that by God's grace they actually *participated in* his ministry.

Paul specifies two areas where this took place:

1. His Circumstances

Paul was in prison in Rome.

The Philippian Christians participated in his circumstances.

How?

- They knew of his predicament.
- They were not ashamed of him.
- They sent a gift to meet his needs.

Why did they do this?

They were prompted by the Spirit.

What is this a reflection of?

God's grace!

2. His activity in his circumstances

Paul was confirming and defending the Gospel.

The Philippians participated in this.

- They prayed for him.
- They contacted him.
- They provided for his needs.

Why did they do this?

They were prompted by the Spirit.

What is this a reflection of?

God's grace!

What is all this saying to us today?

Extract four principles:

1. Christians should all have the same essential attitude to each other as Paul had towards the Philippian Christians.

2. When a Christian is prompted by the Spirit to help a brother or sister in Christ, this is a testimony of God's gracious dealing with that Christian.

3. When a Christian is prompted by the Spirit to help a brother or sister in Christ and yields to that prompting, that Christian becomes directly involved in another Christian's life circumstance and ministry.

4. When Christians receive ministry from other Christians this must not be taken lightly or for granted.

Conclusion

Ministry takes place when

Divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.

(Warren W. Wiersbe)

The Spirit will lead all those He indwells to acts of ministry.

We all benefit from such ministry.

By God's grace such ministry takes place.

*Let us therefore hold each other in
deep affection and give praise to
God for His gracious dealings
with us.*