

# BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

## PHILIPPIANS 1:7-8

*“Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.” (KJV)*

*“It is only right that I should feel such admiration for you all—you hold me close to your hearts. And, since **we are partners in this great work of grace**, you have never failed to stand with me as I have defended and stood firm for the gospel—even from this prison cell. Before God I want you to know how much I long to see you and love you with the affection of the Anointed One, Jesus. (VOC)*

*“It’s not at all fanciful for me to think this way about you. My prayers and hopes have deep roots in reality. You have, after all, stuck with me all the way from the time I was thrown in jail, put on trial, and came out of it in one piece. All along you have experienced with me the most generous help from God. He knows how much I love and miss you these days. Sometimes I think I feel as strongly about you as Christ does!” (MSG)*

*“And I know that I am right to think like this about all of you, because I have you in my [or **you have me in your**] heart. All of you share [are **partners/co-sharers**] in God’s grace with me while I am in prison and while I am defending and proving the truth of the Good News...”*

### **I. THE MARKS OF MATURE BELIEVERS:**

What are the marks of a mature Christian believer? What are the marks of a dynamic, mature Christian Church? Clearly, the marks so desperately needed by believers and churches are spelled out:

**THE FIRST MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SECOND MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE THIRD MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOURTH MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FIFTH MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SIXTH MEASURING MARK:** \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7-8)

### **THE WORDS DEFINE:**

1. ‘Even as it is meet’ translates ‘Even as it is right’.
2. ‘Because I have you in my heart’ means ‘I have carried you my Christian brothers/sisters in my heart’.
3. ‘Partakers’ (koinonia—fellowship) of my grace’ translated into ‘being all wrapped up together’.
4. ‘Bowels’ means ‘tender feelings, deep emotions, compassion, inward affection’.

### **THE SIXTH MEASURING MARK: COOPERATION**

5. Paul and the church were so closely bound together that they formed a \_\_\_\_\_.

☞ They were partners in \_\_\_\_\_.

- Paul loved them as he loved \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul held them even so dear to his heart and they constantly filled his \_\_\_\_\_.

- **QQ:** Have you form a partnership so closely bond together with your brothers or sisters at your church?
- **QQ:** Do you love your brothers/sisters in Christ as you loved yourself?
- **QQ:** Have you constantly think of your brothers/sisters here in your church? Delight? or Regretting? Joy? or Disappoint?

☞ They were partners in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul. This means...



- that they were \_\_\_\_\_ with Paul in his jail.
- that they were sending \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul while he was in jail.
- that they had or were themselves \_\_\_\_\_ because of the gospel just as Paul was.

**THE POINT IS THIS: THE AFFECTION BETWEEN PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS WAS SO TENDER THAT THEIR HEARTS WENT OUT TO EACH OTHERS. WHAT ONE \_\_\_\_\_, THE OTHER \_\_\_\_\_, EVEN THE SUFFERINGS OF EACH OTHER.**

**Romans 15:1 EXB:** “We who are strong in faith [strong, mature Christians] should help [bear with, be patient with] the weak [immature Christians] with their weakness [failings, struggles, doubts, problems, fear], and not please only ourselves.”



**ILLUSTRATION:** Are you regularly in tune with the needs of other people around you?

*Jackie Robinson was the first black [man] to play major league baseball. While breaking baseball's color barrier, he faced jeering crowds in every stadium.*

*While playing one day in his home stadium in Brooklyn, he committed an error. His own fans began to ridicule him. He stood at second base, humiliated, while the fan jeered.*

*Then shortstop 'Pee Wee' Reese came over and stood next to him. He put his arm around Jackie Robinson and faced the crowd. The fan grew quiet. Robinson later said that arm around his shoulder saved his career.*

Who needs your arm around their shoulders today?

- ☞ They were \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel.
    - They were \_\_\_\_\_ defending and proclaiming the truth of the gospel.
    - They were \_\_\_\_\_ bearing witness to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus.
    - They were taking the great commission of our Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_!
  - ☞ They were \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace of God.
    - Paul and the Philippian Church were expressing the wonderful favor and blessing of God.
    - God was pouring the richest blessing upon both Paul and the church.
    - Why? What was it that caused God to so richly bless these two [Paul and the church]?
      - Their \_\_\_\_\_ as this verse shows they were bearing the marks of mature believers.
  - ☞ They were \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. It was the tenderness—the tender mercies, compassion, and deep affection—of Jesus Christ that Paul had for the Philippian Church. He longed for them with the very affection and tenderness of Christ Himself.
6. The great need of our deaf church today is for \_\_\_\_\_--partnership among its members. Deaf believers desperately \_\_\_\_\_ to become partners with each other and with the pastor at your church.
- ✓ **QQ:** What are some ways you can get involved and become a partner in your church? with your pastor?
  - ✓ **QQ:** What qualities do you like to seek when forming a partnership?
  - ✓ **QQ:** Like what Paul said, “being all wrapped up together”, can you being all wrapped up your brothers/sisters together?
  - ✓ **QQ:** Can you step up and put your arm around someone’s shoulder—protecting, defending, or stand up for?

