

Week 4: Learning How To Live A Life Of Generous Friendship

Sermon Series: Philippians

Key Verses: Philippians 4

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: Christian joy grows in community when we choose unity, peace, contentment, and generosity.

Paul is writing from prison. Paul does not have ideal circumstances, and Philippians 4 reminds us that we were never meant to follow Jesus alone. We need each other. Generous friendship is one of the ways God carries us through difficult seasons.

Choose _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:1–3. Paul begins by addressing a disagreement between two women in the church.
- Paul understood something important: _____. Unity does not mean everybody thinks the same way. It means we refuse to let disagreement destroy relationship.

Rejoice In The _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:4–5. Paul says: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.
- Our joy is not based on circumstances. That means joy can still be present even in a difficult season.

Let Prayer Replace _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:6–7. Paul tells us to turn worry into prayer, and do it with thanksgiving, because thanksgiving reminds us that God has been faithful before.

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- Prayer may not immediately change the circumstance, but it can change the way we carry it.

Think About What _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:8–9. What we allow into our minds matters. **Paul says:** Choose what you dwell on. It means do not allow the worst thing happening around you to become the only thing happening inside you.

Show Concern With _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:10–14. The Philippian church cared about Paul.
- Concern becomes powerful when it turns into action. Love becomes visible when concern becomes action.

Learn the Secret of _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:11–13. Then Paul says something famous: I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. And then: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, in which Paul is talking about contentment.
- Contentment is learning that Jesus is enough in every season.

Generosity Reveals Spiritual _____

- **Read:** Philippians 4:14–20. Paul thanks the Philippians for their generosity. They were looking beyond themselves. **Then Paul tells them:** My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. **The point is not:** “Give so you can get rich.” **The point is:** You can live generously because you trust a generous God.
- Generous people reveal confidence in a generous God.

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