

FELLOWSHIP OF THE CROSS

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READ: Philippians 1:3-5

ILL: Wall-E movie, or I am Legend movies... Begin the same way.... long time just watching them live.

Why do we find that so captivating? Because he was all alone in a metropolis made for millions.

When does the compelling drama begin?

First when his singular life is threatened....dread

Secondly, when another of his kind appears... response is deep affection

Affinity –similarity that binds people together

ILL - Me in Italy meeting the person from University of Maryland who knew a good friend of mine.

Their familiarity brought me comfort in a strange land. –We share intimate knowledge of home.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.

Who are the people who bring you joy? What is it about them that brings you joy?

What is the similarity you share that makes you long for one another?

- Believe it or not, that affinity is your driving core. That is what we see in Paul here
- **Paul affinity with the Philippians with them is the gospel of Grace it is them who bring him JOY.**
 - To say it another way, what is it you love? It will tell you who you love.
You will partner in life with these people.
These people reflect your heart – there are not two sides to you but one.
There are those people to long to get away from to be with those you have an affinity.

There are many who have a pretend relationship with Jesus and His church.

- These aren't the new, learning, & curious, but are usually the long-time, never changing, people.
- Pretend to be apart of what is going on, pretend to be in agreement, pretend to believe.
 - In reality, they're intention is to get something they want – friends, girls, boys, fun. God.
 - They aren't partners who long for the body of Christ
 - Quickly depart when its time to serve, sacrifice, give, or connect deeply with the body.

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

Paul models for Christians how to live among one another.

First, is a live of thanksgiving – all the time, every where

- A life of a thanksgiving is opposite to the life of the entitled- believed they deserve what they have....not that it what they have is a blessing of God.
- The entitled are easily bored, they have been their and done that, and looking for the next thing.
- Do not appreciate what they have, do not see the value of it, or the significance

Secondly, we see that Paul rarely thanked God for things...he thanked God for people.

- Throughout all his letters, Romans gave thanks for 33.
- To Paul its not me & Jesus mentality but a WE & Jesus. Paul was made part of a we. Jesus didn't just make a me.
- In all our writing and prayers, who do we give thanks for? Do we ever give thanks for those God put into our life? Or are our prayers consumed with a Me and Jesus mentality.

Because of your partnership in the gospel

What Paul and the Philippians share is being saved by grace - they know what being in the outside fellowship with God is like.

Explain the saving of Paul, of Lydia, and the Jailer, and possibly the demonic slave girl.

- Each saved by grace, Paul on the road, Lydia's heart was opened by God (Acts 16:14), Jailer-Paul stayed.
- Each one is a saint – who was set apart from their world for special use, called out to be a church the people of God in strange land.

Who is your joy? What is special above all in your heart? Is it Jesus & his people? Pretending?

