



Philippians 1:1-6 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Read Philippians 1:1-6. This introduction is fairly typical of Paul's letters; what strikes you as important? What sticks out to you?
- Why do you think Paul and Timothy call themselves "servants"?
 - How does this title describe their role in the church?
 - If they are leaders in the church, how can they also be servants?
 - What does this self-described title teach us about church leadership? What should we expect from our leaders in the church? What kind of behavior would contradict this title?
- Who are the "saints" in verse 1? As best you can tell from the context, what does this word mean?
 - Ben said that all Christians are saints, for the word describes those who have been made holy by Jesus. How does holiness fit into salvation? What is the relationship between holiness and salvation?
 - How do we receive holiness? Why can we not attain holiness by ourselves?
 - How do we balance the fact that in Jesus we are already holy, but because of the flesh we still are becoming holy? How do we navigate that tension as Christians?
 - Where do you feel this tension for yourself?

- Practically, what does it look like to pursue holiness while resting in the knowledge that Jesus has already made us holy?
- Paul addresses the “saints” as plural, as a community. What is the role of community in pursuing holiness?
- In verse 2, how does Paul greet the Philippian church?
 - Why do you think he tells them that God the Father and Jesus send them grace and peace?
 - How do the Father and Jesus send grace and peace to us today?
 - Why do churches need grace and peace? How would you define those two words?
 - What does grace feel like to you? How about peace?
 - Why can true grace and true peace only be found in Christ?
- What does Paul say in verses 3 and 4? What do you think these verses mean?
 - Why do you think Paul tells the Philippians that he thanks God for them?
 - Why do you think, in his own prayer life, with all that he has to pray about, does Paul take time to thank God for the Philippian church? What does this teach us about prayer?
 - Why should thanksgiving be at least an occasional part of our prayer life? What is important about giving thanks to God for His gifts in our lives?
 - What is something you are giving thanks to God for right now? Where have you seen Him provide for you or answer prayer?
 - What are some obstacles to giving thanks? What are some things that may impede us from thanking Him as we should?
 - One obstacle to giving thanks is forgetfulness; we sometimes forget what it is we prayed for, and when God answers it, we don't realize that He's answered our prayers. How can we

confront forgetfulness so that we can express greater gratitude towards God?

- What are some practical steps we can take to confront some of the other obstacles the group mentioned?
- In verse 5, what is the reason that Paul has been giving thanks for the Philippians?
 - What do you think that a “partnership in the gospel” is? Who are the different groups in this partnership?
 - Ben mentioned that one implication of this partnership in the gospel is unity among believers. How does partnership in the gospel lead to unity in the church?
 - What is unity? What does unity mean?
 - Why do you think unity matters in the church?
 - These are disunified times in the United States; how can Christians remain unified during divided seasons in their country?
 - How might unity provide opportunities for proclamation of the gospel?
 - What are some practical steps we can take to sow further unity in the body of our small group and King’s Church?
- Verse 6 is a famous verse, and for good reason. What do you think verse 6 is saying? What does it mean?
 - What does it mean that Christ will bring to completion the good work He began in us? What does it mean for that work to be brought to completion?
 - What makes this promise good news?
 - Why do you think does Paul feel the need to reassure the Philippians of this promise in Christ?

- When are some times that we may we be tempted to believe that Christ might not complete the work He began in us?
- How does this promise stir up hope in us? How does hope enable us to persevere in harder seasons and seasons of temptation?