

Message Notes

Pursuing What's Best

Philippians 1:9-11

January 1, 2006

Message Outline

Pursuing What's Best

Philippians 1:9-11

January 1, 2006

- I. **Resolve to love.** (9-10a)
 - A. This passage exhorts us to an overflowing love.
 - B. This passage exhorts us to an intelligent love.
 - C. This passage exhorts us to a transformational love.
 - D. This passage exhorts us to resolve to a purifying love.
 - E. This passage exhorts us to a long-term love.
- II. **Resolve to love by God's power.** (11a)
 - A. This type of love is impossible.
 - B. This type of love is simple.
- III. **Resolve to love by God's power for God's Glory.** (11b)
 - A. The end goal of life.
 - B. Becoming a fingerpost.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

Pursuing What's Best

Philippians 1:9-11

January 1, 2006

1. Read Philippians 1:3-11 again and describe Paul's tone in this letter. What was his relationship like with the church at Philippi?
2. In the letter to the Philippians, Paul gives three examples of the kind of love he describes in 1:9-11. Read 2:1-11; 2:19-24 and 2:25-30 and compare and contrast these examples of love in light of what Paul says in chapter 1.
3. Why does Paul pray that the Philippians will be "filled with the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ"? Why do we need *His* righteousness?
4. Read John 15:1-17. Explain how this passage sheds light on the reality that we can only love by the power of God.
5. Discuss how the creation account in Genesis 1:26-31 shows that we are made to be fingerposts to God's glory.

Growth Group Application Questions

Pursuing What's Best

Philippians 1:9-11

January 1, 2006

1. What was something challenging or new from this sermon or passage this week?
2. What are some real situations where it would take discernment and depth of insight to love someone well?
3. This passage challenges us to pursue what's best and most excellent over merely what's good. What hinders us from recognizing the *best*—why are we duped so often by the good?
4. Discuss why loving out of a foreign righteousness is actually simple.
5. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says the ultimate goal in life is to love God and enjoy Him forever. Discuss how loving, as we're challenged to in this passage, brings more joy to our lives and therefore more glory to God.

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