

JOY TO YOUR WORLD: The Ring of Fellowship

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #JoyToYourWorld

Stay in the Ring of Fellowship And Receive Joy to Your World

1. Commit Your Service to **Remain** in the Fellowship (1).
2. Call Your Concern to **Rest** in the Fellowship (1-2).
3. Cultivate Your Mind to **Remember** the Fellowship (3-6).
4. Condition Your Heart to **Refresh** in the Fellowship (1, 7-8).
5. Craft Your Prayers to **Reinforce** the Fellowship (4, 9-11).

Philippians 1:1-11 (ESV)

*Paul and Timothy,
servants of Christ Jesus, To
all the saints in Christ Jesus
who are at Philippi, with
the overseers and deacons:
²Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

*³I thank my God in all my
remembrance of
you, ⁴always in every prayer
of mine for you all making my
prayer with joy, ⁵because of
your partnership in the gospel
from the first day until
now. ⁶And I am sure of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of
Jesus Christ.*

*⁷It is right for me to feel this
way about you all, because I
hold you in my heart, for you
are all partakers with me of
grace, both in my
imprisonment and in the
defense and confirmation of
the gospel. ⁸For God is my
witness, how I yearn for you
all with the affection of Christ
Jesus.*

*⁹And it is my prayer that your
love may abound more and
more, with knowledge and all
discernment, ¹⁰so that you
may approve what is
excellent, and so be pure and
blameless for the day of
Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of
righteousness that
comes through Jesus
Christ, to the glory and praise
of God.*

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is by discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here:

www.centralchurch.com/groups

1. **Read Hebrews 10:25.** What would it look like to give 1-2% of your week to emphasize the gathering of the church? Why is it so necessary, especially in these last days?

2. How does seeing God's work in other people translate to joy with our daily lives? Could God be your witness of the love you hold in your heart for the church? How can someone grow and expand their love?

3. This passage proposes that we ought to grow in our love for one another. Absence from the church body often times is evidence of lovelessness. How would you counsel someone who says, "I just don't feel connected?"

Quote for the Week. . .

by Amy Carmichael



"We are trusted to spread the spirit of love. Tenderness in judgment, the habit of thinking the best of one another, unwillingness to believe evil, grief if we are forced to do so, eagerness to believe good, joy over one recovered from any slip or fall, unselfish gladness in another's joys, sorrow in another's sorrow, readiness to do anything to help another entirely irrespective of self – all this and much more is included in that wonderful word love. If love weakens among us, if it ever becomes possible to tolerate the least shadow of an unloving thought, our Fellowship will begin to perish. Unlove is deadly. It is a cancer. It may kill slowly but it always kills in the end. Let us fear it, fear to give room to it as we should fear to nurse a cobra. It is deadlier than any cobra. And just as one minute drop of the almost invisible cobra venom spreads swiftly all over the body of one into whom it has been injected, so one drop of the gall of unlove in my heart or yours, however unseen, has a terrible power of spreading all through our Family, for we are one body – we are parts of one another. If one member suffers loss, all suffer loss. Not one of us liveth to herself."