

Investing In Relationships: The Book Of Philippians
“Investing In An Eternal Perspective” 2 of 8
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
February 14, 2021

Big Idea: To enjoy the people in my life, I need to invest in my relationships.

To Have An Eternal Perspective, I Need To:

1. View My Circumstances Through God’s Purpose

“And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that **everything** that has **happened** to me here has **helped** to spread the Good News. For **everyone** here, including the whole **palace guard**, **knows** that I am in chains because of **Christ**. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have **gained confidence** and boldly speak God’s message without fear.”

Philippians 1:12-14 (NLT2)

“And we know that God causes **everything** to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to **His purpose** for them.”

Romans 8:28 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

2. Refuse To Be Distracted By Difficult People

“It’s true that some are preaching out of **jealousy** and **rivalry**. But others preach about Christ with **pure motives**. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to **defend** the Good News. Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with **selfish ambition**, **not sincerely**, intending to make my chains more **painful** to me. But that **doesn’t matter**. Whether their motives are false or genuine, **the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice**. And I will continue to rejoice.”

Philippians 1:15-18 (NLT2)

“**Rejoice** in our **confident hope**. Be **patient** in trouble, and keep on **praying**. When God’s people are in need, be **ready to help** them. Always be eager to practice **hospitality**. **Bless** those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; **pray** that God will bless them. **Be happy** with those who are happy, and **weep** with those who weep. **Live in harmony** with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”

Romans 12:12-16 (NLT2)

- **Love out of Duty because of their position.** [Set healthy boundaries.]
- **Love out of Devotion because of their character.** [Has minimum boundaries.]

“Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” **Matthew 5:37 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Make The Most Of What I Have To Honor Christ

“And I will continue to **rejoice**. For I know that as you **pray** for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will **continue to be bold for Christ**, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring **honor** to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, **living** means **living for Christ**, and **dying** is even **better**. But if I live, I can do more **fruitful work for Christ**. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for **your sakes**, it is **better** that I **continue to live**. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you **grow and experience the joy of your faith**. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what He is doing through me.” **Philippians 1:18a-26 (NLT2)**

Above all, you must **live** as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner **worthy of the Good News about Christ**. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing **side by side, fighting together for the faith**, which is the Good News. **Don't be intimidated** in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be **saved**, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the **privilege of trusting** in Christ but also the **privilege of suffering** for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.”

Philippians 1:27-30 (NLT2)

“Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

Philippians 2:4 (NLT2) Remember Verse

Notes: _____

- Knowing that God is working behind the scene, how can I make the most of my situation?

My next right step, I will invest in my relationships by:

- [] Viewing my circumstances through God's purpose
- [] Refusing to be distracted by difficult people
- [] Making the most of what I have now to honor Christ

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Icebreaker for families: Pick and choose which one(s) you would like to share.

My high this week was: _____.

My low this week was: _____.

I noticed that you did _____ for me and I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

My favorite vacation memory is: _____.

I really enjoy when we do _____ together.

One way you could support me right now is: _____.

This summer I'd like to: _____.

Acts of Kindness: Put everyone's names in a bowl. Without looking, choose one name, then choose one of the following ways to demonstrate your love for your family member today. *Suggestions: Run an errand, a foot massage, a chore around the house, make their favorite dessert, buy a small gift, write a card...*

Big Idea: To enjoy the people in my life, I need to invest in my relationships.

To Have An Eternal Perspective, I Need To:

1. View My Circumstances Through God's Purpose

Read Philippians 1:12-14

Sometimes when bad things happen, we feel God isn't with us. How did Paul view his situation?

What are some good things that came out of Paul's imprisonment?

Read Romans 8:28

How does this verse encourage you?

2. Refuse To Be Distracted By Difficult People (vs.15-18)

Read Philippians 1:15-18

Can you imagine someone trying to make Paul's imprisonment more painful?

Has anyone ever tried to make your life more painful?

What was Paul's response to this hurtful situation?

How can Paul's response help you see things differently?

Read Romans 12:12-16

What should our attitude be toward difficult people?

Read Matthew 5:37

How does this verse help in dealing with difficult people?

Discuss these concepts:

- **Love out of Duty because of their position.** [Set healthy boundaries.]
What are some healthy boundaries you can set towards difficult people?
- **Love out of Devotion because of their character.** [Has minimum boundaries.]
Who are your most trusted friends?

How would you describe their character?

3. Make The Most Of What I Have To Honor Christ (vs.19-20)

Read Philippians 1:18a-26

What does it mean to live for Christ?

Choose three people and describe how they bring value to your life.

1.

2.

3.

Read Philippians 1:27-30

Who helps you stand for your faith?

How can you invest more in this relationship?

Read verse 29 again. What does it mean to have the privilege of believing in Christ and also to suffer for Him?

Review Philippians 2:4 as a remember verse.

Close in Prayer: **Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.**