

Shine

Week 14 – Family Dynamics

Philippians 4:21-23

Purpose: Christians will Shine the Gospel as we Greet and Care for God's Family

Graphic Slide (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

There is a story of a young man who was bullied by his brothers because he was their dad's favorite. They eventually trafficked him (sold him into slavery) and made it look like he died from an animal attack, so the boys' father would think the brother was dead. The bullied brother ended up as a slave who was thrown in jail. Then the bullied brother was helpful to the ruler of the country, in which he lived. He went from jail to the director of farming and food supply. The young man was successful and became the second in command answering only to the ruler. The man's brothers were repentant over the years and became godly men. God led the brothers to the country where the bullied brother was second in command. They needed help with food due to a devastating famine in the region. The bullied brother was compassionate towards his brothers due to God's work in him. He eventually brought his family into the country in which he lived, gave them food, gave them land, and they lived benefiting from his influence. After revealing to his brothers who he was, he said to them, "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God." Joseph's brothers treated him with hatred. Joseph treated his brothers with care and generosity. Joseph's brothers were humble and grieved by what they had done. God prepared both groups to receive each other with gratitude by His grace. (Genesis 37-47). Grace changes the dynamics of a family to God's glory and for their benefit.

Let's finish out the letter from Paul to the saints in Philippi and see how God's Grace impacts family dynamics. Let's continue growing to Shine the Gospel of Jesus!

Shining Reminders (pt.1) (SLIDE 2)

We are Saints and Servants

We Need Grace and Peace

We are Gospel Proclaimers

We Have Godly Desires and Obedience

Shining Reminders (pt.2) (SLIDE 3)

We are to be Shining Unity

We will Shine in Dark Places

We Shine Christ in Serving Selflessly

We Shine Confident in Christ

Shining Reminders (pt.3) (SLIDE 4)

We Shine the Captured Prize of Christ

We Shine More of Christ

We Shine Christ On Mission

We Shine Being Impacted by The Gospel

We Shine Living in Spiritual Strength

Read

Philippians 4:21-23 ESV (SLIDE 5)

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Graphic Slide (SLIDE 6)

Notes on Philippians 4:21-23

Family Greetings (v. 21)

Paul closes out his letter to the saints in Philippi with a call to greeting. This partially directs them to not be kind only to Paul. They are to think of others. They are not to become huddled and only consider each other in Philippi. The saints are to see other saints as people who are connected through Jesus Christ. Having that connection is an opportunity for them to be kind and generous to other saints. The spiritual family in Rome, where Paul wrote this letter, greet them. Paul shares greetings from people who are with him. Paul doesn't give specifics, like he did with Timothy and Epaphroditus, but they are with Paul in Rome, and they send their greetings to the saints in Philippi. Paul makes the saints in Philippi aware that there are other people involved in God's mission and caring for Paul in Rome. God's family is large, spread out, and growing.

Growing Family (v. 22)

Paul then writes that there are several believers, saints, who care for each other, and they all send their greetings to the Philippian saints. This is part of the giving and receiving that Paul wrote of in verse 15. This can also include more than just the brothers, but the sister saints as well. The "all" includes genders, ages, nationalities, and locations. They all send their greetings. The Philippian saints are connected to large network of people who belong to Jesus and belong to each other. Then Paul emphasizes a group of saints in Rome. He writes that the saints who are of Caesar's household send their greetings to the Philippians. This is an opportunity to affirm something important. The Philippians are a part of God's work to save people who are in Caesar's household. This doesn't mean that Caesar or a member of his family are among the saints, but there are people who are part of Caesar's house who are. These people have heard the Gospel and received it with faith and have professed their belief in Jesus as the Christ. These professing believers are now part of God's household. This might also connect the statement

Paul wrote in chapter one verse thirteen that the imperial guard know that Paul's imprisonment is for Christ. Another interesting aspect of Paul's closing is that can be seen as fulfilling the word of God spoken by the Lord's angel in Acts 27. During the treacherous boat journey where the boat, with Paul as a prisoner, endured rough seas and difficult weather became endangered. There was a moment where Paul's shipmates, free and slave, feared losing their lives and wanted to abandon ship. An angel of the Lord delivered a word to Paul that Paul would not lose his life in this storm. Paul was to stand before Caesar. The angel also said that the lives of all the men on the journey who are in the boat would also survive. Paul is writing that this happened word came true, and that the Philippian saints are part of God's plan. The Romans who believed in Jesus Christ are grateful for God bringing Paul and to the Saints, in Philippi and beyond, who helped supply Paul's needs. God used all of this to bring people into relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. The saints have saints in Caesar's House!

Family by Grace (v. 23)

The only way in which anyone has been brought into God's family is through grace that was given by God. This is the same grace that Paul prayed for in the beginning of the letter (Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.). Paul reminded them in the beginning of the necessity of God's grace, and He closes the letter reminding the saints of the ongoing need of God's grace. God's grace was shown in giving Jesus Christ as an atoning sacrifice for sinners. Paul reminds them in the end that they will continue needing God's grace to live obediently. God's grace gave Jesus to save God's people, and this grace depends upon Jesus!

God's People Treat Family Influenced by God's Grace (SLIDE 7)

Grace to Make Us His Family (SLIDE 8)

God's Favor to Make Us His Own

He Brought Us Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light

Grace to Greet and Care for Our Family (SLIDE 9)

We Show and Share His Kindness to Other Members of His Family

He Greeted and Cared for Us, so We Show this to Our Siblings in Faith

We Shine the Gospel of God's Grace by God's Grace (SLIDE 10)

The core and primary relationships are the places where the fruit of the Spirit are most evident and show God's Grace working mightily!

- This helps us understand why Paul highlights that men who are set apart by God to serve the church as Elders and Deacons have families (Wives and Children) so the church can see the evidence of God's Grace and the Fruit of the Spirit working effectively and that God has set them apart of His use in this way!

Read

Titus 2:11-14 ESV (SLIDE 11)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Graphic Slide (SLIDE 12)

Daily Reading

Week 14 – Family Dynamics

Day 1

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

You have received God's grace, and you are saved. As God's saved person, you have the power to be different and live differently. You are no longer under the control of sin but are under the influence of the Holy Spirit. This causes God's people to reject the passion of the world and "live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age." We treat our brothers and sisters with care, generosity, and kindness. We are passionate about doing good works. We eagerly look for good works so we can do them. The primary place we can do good works is with our family, biological and spiritual. Let's be people who shine the Gospel in our Family Dynamics!

Day 2

Acts 27:23-25 ESV

23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, **24** and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' **25** So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

Praise God for His good work revealed to Paul in a word from an angel that took place and people believed in Jesus and are part of God's family. God continues giving people faith and bringing them into His family. He did this for you, and God includes you as He does this for others. Let's shine the Gospel in Family Dynamics as God grows His family!

Day 3

Titus 3:4-8 ESV

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **8** The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

God graciously gave you faith to believe in Jesus Christ and believe in Him. This faith that justified you with God saves you from destruction. You have life because God saved you. This salvation isn't because you were good, because you earned it, because you would do remarkable things, or because of anything you could have done. God saved you and gave you an eternal reward of abiding presence with Him through Jesus Christ because of His grace. Knowing this, give yourself fully to the good works God has prepared for you and for which He has prepared you. Shine the light of the Gospel in Family Dynamics by doing good works to your family!

Day 4

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,^[a] but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by^[b] the Spirit.

You are a member of God's family and a part of the structure of God's house/temple. God dwells in the lives of His people. Jesus is the foundation and the head of His "structure". This structure is set apart and being built up and supported by His work. Since we are part of this structure together, let us be kind and caring to each other. Shine the light of the Gospel in our Family Dynamics as the dwelling place of God!

Day 5

Romans 12:3-7 ESV

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members,^[a] and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

God's family is great and dynamic! You are part of that family! Each member is different and are given different gifts according to God's Grace. Use your gift and talent to build up the family and bring glory and pleasure to our Father. You have a different gift that makes you unique but also makes you uniquely vital to the health and growth of your family. Ask God to help you know your gift, grow your gift, and share your gift. God will use others in His family to help you know, grow, and share. It is a beautiful economy of God's work. Shine the light of the Gospel in our Family Dynamics as God grows His family!