



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Week of February 13 & 14, 2021*

*Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.*

### **Sermon Text**

Philippians 1:3-8

*If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>*

***3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And 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. 7 It 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. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.***

### **Summary**

In this week's passage the Apostle Paul expresses a passion for God's people that is rooted in a partnership with God's people. Paul's passion for God's people was expressed in gratitude for, optimism about, and affection towards the Philippians. The reason for Paul's passion for the Philippians was because of their partnership with him in the Gospel. Their partnership together fueled their passion for each other and their passion for each other naturally produced gospel ministry together.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. As Paul wrote to the Philippians from jail, he remembers and longs for them with great love, passion, gratitude and affection. Describe the level of passion you have for God's people at Hawaii Kai Church. Is that passion for just a few of your closest friends? Or for all of God's people? Why do you think it is important for Christians to share the Apostle Paul's passion for the people of God?
2. We have the choice to view our church and its people primarily through flesh centered pessimism or God centered optimism. Paul chose the latter. Why is it important and necessary to see your fellow Christians with God centered optimism? What does this look like practically?
3. In our sermon today, we heard that "presence grows affection". What do you think this means? Why do you think some people tend to pull away from the church rather than gravitate towards it? If this is you, or you know someone like this, why do you think the author of Hebrews (in 10:25) exhorts his readers not to neglect meeting together? Why is the corporate gathering of believers so important to the Christian?
4. How can a partnership in a shared mission and life goal lead to greater passion and love for one another? (It might help to think about a sports team or an army platoon.) Why should a partnership in Gospel ministry forge the strongest kind of bonds in the lives of Christians? What are some things that could threaten that partnership? How does the focus of question #2 lessen these threats?
5. As a result of today's message, how will you pursue a greater passion for God's people? How will you ensure an increasing pursuit of Gospel partnership with God's people such that the advance of the Gospel becomes the greatest goal, pursuit and love of your life?