

## Reflection Questions: The Essential Ingredient in a Well-Lived Life

For the message, "The Essential Ingredient of a Well-Lived Life" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on October 16, 2022

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Philippians 1:9-11

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

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### **Let's get started...**

- What initially grabs your attention as you read and reflect on these verses in which we see Paul praying from prison that these Philippian followers of Christ would abound more and more in love?

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- Be honest now, how often does it cross your mind to pray for ourselves and for each other that our love would abound more and more? If you pray for this, why do you do it? And if you don't or forget to pray for this, why do you think that is the case?
- Why do you think the Apostle adds to this prayer for abounding love the phrase, "with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent"? What do you think it might mean to love "with knowledge and discernment" so that we "may approve what is excellent"?
  - Think about what it might mean to love this way in this midst of conflicts, egos, divergent things pulling for our approval, different philosophies and lifestyles, to name just a few.
- Paul wants his friends in Philippi to grow in this kind of love, so that they may be "pure" [literally, sincere, genuine, authentic] and "blameless" [that is, living without scandal or causing others to fall]. What is the connection between living this way and our witness before others? Or to put it another way, why is it so devastating when our culture witnesses Christians not being the real thing?

## 2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Imagine, what if our beloved church became known as a place that abounded in love more and more? What if our Life Group grew in this Christ-like virtue? What would it mean for you personally to be connected to a group of Jesus' followers that loved each other well? How can we spur one another on towards this very thing?
- At the end of verse 10, Paul's ultimate aim for this prayer is that everything, both his prayer and its answer in the life of his friends, might be "to the glory and praise of God." And note that Paul told the Corinthians, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). How can we help each other to live into this goal? How can we grow in spurring each other on towards this end?

## 3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How do you think abounding in love for God, for each other, and for all, adorns the Good News of Jesus making it even more attractive (if we can put it that way)?

### CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

### PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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