

## Topic: Philippians 1:9-11 - Love Is Not Blind

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As SP Daniel Foo was doing a bible study with some mentoring groups a few months ago, the phrase “Love is not blind” kept coming to his mind. Hence, this led him to preach on this topic based on the prayer of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:9-11.

### **Philippians 1:9-11 (NKJV)**

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

### **Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)**

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God*

## **I. The source of our love.**

### **1) The source of our love is from God.**

#### **Philippians 1:9**

*And this I pray, that **your love** may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment ...*

What is the source of our love? In Philippians 1:9, the word ‘love’ comes from the Greek word, ‘agape’, which refers to the love of God.

### **2) This love of God flows into us as we abide in Him.**

#### **1 John 4:16**

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who **abides in love abides in God**, and God in him.*

Abiding is about connecting, fellowshiping and of ‘hanging out’. An example can be seen in the way we relate on social media. We share pictures of our meals, visits, our thoughts, and our inspiration with our friends on this platform. We do all these to connect with the people in our lives. Relationship takes time, energy and requires intentionality. Likewise for our relationship with God, we do the same as we spend time intentionally in prayer, hearing, reading and meditating His Word.

### **3) When we do not abide in God, we revert to our natural corrupt love.**

#### **Romans 3:23**

*for all have sinned and **fall short of the glory of God** ...*

We are sinners with the fallen nature within us. Hence when we are not deliberately connected to God, we will revert to our natural corrupt love - We will not be able to properly love our spouse children and loved ones. Janet Boynes, a former lesbian who was delivered from her lesbian lifestyle, shared in her book that generally in homes where the father is relatively passive and the mother relatively domineering, there is a high incidence of children turning gay. The parents in such homes do mean well and love their children but it is with a natural and corrupt love.

#### **4) We must first experience the love of God personally.**

**1 John 4:10**

*In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

SP Daniel love grew up being taught the greatest commandment and that we need to love God. He realized later that this was the wrong starting point. The starting point must be personally experiencing the love of God in our lives.

#### **5A) As we continue to experience the love of God, we will develop faith conviction that we are deeply loved by God.**

**1 John 4:16**

*And we have **known** and **believed** the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

It is SP's prayer for every BBTcian to have a faith conviction that we are deeply loved by God. Regardless of our performance, whether we have read the bible or have said kind words to our family members, we are loved and accepted by our Heavenly Father. If we don't have this conviction, we will be constantly under guilt and condemnation through the accusations of the devil. In Genesis 29, Leah felt unloved by her husband Jacob. The Lord saw her affliction and was tenderly wooing her back to Him. In her fourth pregnancy, Leah received a heavenly download of God's love and became a worshipper of God. She named her fourth son as Judah and said: "This time I will praise the Lord." Leah found fulfillment in God and God began to remove from her jealousy, insecurities, heartache as she began to rest in the love of God.

#### **5B) We then live out our lives based on this faith conviction that we are deeply loved by God.**

**1 John 4:16**

*And we have **known** and **believed** the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

**Develop Biblical Worldview  
Find Theological Anchor  
Build Faith Conviction**

SP has often encouraged us to develop faith convictions in life. We do so by looking at the issues of life through the lens of Scripture, to develop a Biblical Worldview. As we do so, we find a verse, a covenant or an attribute of God in the Bible to be our theological anchor. As we experience the theological anchor as God comes through for us again and again, it becomes our faith conviction. We then live out our lives based on this faith conviction.

#### **6) We can then love God because He first loved us.**

**1 John 4:19**

*We love Him because He first loved us.*

SP's encourages every BBTcian not to let a week or even a day pass us by without the realization that we are deeply loved by God. Let God touch us during our time of corporate worship. Embrace the love of the Heavenly Father. The more we do that, the more the Holy Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, the more he will enable us to abide in His love.

## **7) We then continue to experience the flow of the love of God which has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.**

### **Romans 5:5**

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.*

In very trial and difficult situation, there is always hope because we are deeply loved by God.

## **8) We can then love others with the love of God:**

Our loving of others is like a concentric circle, beginning within for our families, and then progressing outwards for our fellow believers and then those who cross our path.

### **A. Our families.**

#### **1 Timothy 5:8**

*But if anyone does not provide for **his own**, and especially for those of **his household**, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*

SP shared a testimony of a BBTCian who struggled with loving her father. It was only during a revival service in BBTC by Andres Bisonni that a simple phrase 'honour your parents' convicted her. It was only through the power of the Holy Spirit that she could forgive his father and love him.

### **B. Our fellow believers.**

#### **Galatians 6:10**

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to **those who are of the household of faith**.*

BBTC over the years have always had a fund for the poor and needy among us. This is a love assistance fund, dispensed to those who are needy in our midst. This is what we do for one another because we are a family.

### **C. Those who cross our path**

#### **Luke 10:29-37**

*Good Samaritan - Who is my neighbour?*

## **II. How shall we love?**

### **1A) We must love in knowledge of God and depth of insight from the Holy Spirit.**

#### **Philippians 1:9 (NKJV)**

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more **in knowledge and all discernment** ...*

#### **Philippians 1:9-11 (AMP)**

*And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development **in knowledge and all keen insight** [that your love may display itself **in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment***

Loving in knowledge of God and depth of insight comes only when we are connected to Him. To love in knowledge is to love with eyes wide open.

## 1B) Know and understand the love of God flows from His character.

### *Jeremiah 9:24*

*but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising **loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness** in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.*

We have seen in the world of people committing all kinds of sins in the name of love, approving the very things God Word says is wrong – endorsing same sex marriage, encouraging and condoning pre-marital sex, couples cohabiting before their marriage, going on holidays together before marriage and stumbling everyone by sharing those holiday pictures over social media. There is now a movement promoting incest. They term this as Genetic Sexual Attraction (GSA) and say there is nothing wrong with individuals having incestuous relationships, even citing examples of ‘successful’ GSA relationships. In the end times, darkness will increase but so will light in the church. We must remain separated from the world as we are in the world.

## 2) We must also be aware of the character of the people we love.

Dubious	Weaknesses	Unlovely	Stubborn	No Integrity
Blind-spots	Evil Intention	Negative Habits	Specific Needs	
Who are your enemy	Who Seek Your Harm	Who don't want to change		

There are all kinds of people in our midst, some with negative traits of examples as listed above. How do we love them? We can still love them by blessing them, praying for them and forgiving them. However if they harbor ill intentions to harm you, it will be wise to avoid them, to minimize unnecessary contact. We can love and forgive them but we don't necessarily have to trust them.

## III. Desired outcome of loving others:

### 1) so that we discern what is God's best for the person and love accordingly.

#### *Philippians 1:9-10 9*

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **that you may approve the things that are excellent**, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ ...*

In the early years of the church, we were unaware and often parted with cash unwisely. Since then, BBTC have laid down policies to wisely offer assistance accordingly. For example, for those who need food, we have a kitchen that provides meals instead of offering money. There were many instances that those who sought help turned down the meals offered as they were picky.

It is God's best that we want for those we love. SP cited examples of parents controlling their children to the point of the choice of university courses and the jobs they take up. They discourage their children from coming to church during exams but to focus on their studies. This sends a wrong message of priority to their children of what's important in life. Their controlling actions cause their children to be less resilient as all the decisions have been made by the parents.

### 2) as we love with the love of God, we will be sincere and blameless before God.

#### *Philippians 1:10-11 10*

*that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without offense till the day of Christ**, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God*

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God***

The word sincere in the verse above derives from a Greek word which means purity. Within its context, the purity refers to tested by sunlight. In the days of Paul, there would be cracked pottery that are mended by wax and sold as perfect products. To test these products, they would be left in the sunlight and the heat would melt the wax and expose the wax.

**3) as we love with the love of God, we must also strive to have our conscience clear before God and man.**

**Acts 24:16**

*This being so, I myself **always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men***

We cannot determine everybody's responses and reactions. However we ought to emulate Paul in Acts 24:16 that as far as before God and men are concerned, our conscience is clear.

**4) as we love with the love of God, we must be mindful of those with weak conscience so as not to stumble them.**

**1 Corinthians 8:7**

*However, there is **not in everyone that knowledge**; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and **their conscience, being weak, is defiled.***

**1 Corinthians 8:9**

*But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a **stumbling block** to those who are weak*

**Romans 14:12-13 12**

*So then each of us shall **give account of himself to God**. Therefore let us **not judge one another anymore**, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.***

We need to be mindful that there are some with a weak conscience. SP gave the example of a believer who has a fellow believer friend who has a weak conscience – this friend thinks that dining in a Thai restaurant with an idol will defile. Hence this believer avoids going to a Thai restaurant with this friend in order not to stumble him. We need to apply 1 Cor 8:9 so that our liberty will not be a stumbling block for others.

A weak conscience is based on lack of knowledge. If you have a weak conscience, grow in the area of knowledge. For the example of the Thai restaurant, we need to know that an idol is nothing. Hence ensure there is no ground in your life and know that you are a child of God, deeply loved, protected by the blood of Christ.

**5) as we love with the love of God, it will be filled with the fruits of Righteousness**

**Philippians 1:11**

*being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, **to the glory and praise of God.***

Righteousness =

**A. Right standing with God**

**B. Right believing**

**C. Right doing - living**

Righteousness refers to right standing with God which leads to right believing. This right believing leads to right doing and right living.

## Conclusion

### **Philippians 1:9-11**

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

One of the fruits of Righteousness is **Forgiveness**. Forgiveness is a progression of many stages:

- i. Forgive as an act of our will in obedience.
- ii. Be healed from the wounds, hurts and pains.
- iii. Release judgment of the people to the Lord.
- iv. Reconcile
- v. Restore
- vi. Rejoice
- vii. Celebrate

Forgiveness is complete in itself in each stage but some are unable to progress to the next stage because of the hurts and pain or the lack of spiritual maturity. God knows our weakness and hence will be patient with us to remain in that stage of forgiveness. But as we abide in His love, God will pour forth the love of God in our hearts to give us the enabling grace to progress to the next stage of forgiveness.

### **Isaiah 32:17 (NIV)**

*The **fruit of that righteousness** will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence for ever.*

### **Isaiah 32:17 (NKJV)**

*The **work of righteousness** will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.*

The peace in the above verse is Shalom which is our wholesome well-being. When there is right believing and right doing, its effect will be quietness and confidence. God is on our side and nothing can separate us from His love. This assurance gives us the strength that we can do all things in Christ.

END

## Question

1. What is the source of your love? Do you love your fellow believers, friends and loved ones with the love of God or with your own natural corrupt love?
2. Do you have a faith conviction that you are deeply loved by God? How is this conviction lived out in your life?
3. Share what are some ways we can grow our love for God and others in knowledge and discernment?
4. How can we keep our conscience clear before God and man?
5. Is there someone in your life you are struggling to love or forgive? Pray for one another for God to pour His love into our hearts for the enabling grace to love and forgive.