



Part 3: Our Lives Are Not Our Own

Philippians 1:12-30

Note: We have provided more questions here than you will likely need. Please pick and choose the questions you think will create the best discussion in your group, and don't feel like you need to discuss every question.

Ask

- *Leader's note: You can do this part as a group, but you may find it better to split into groups of two or three. Lance started out the teaching by explaining what the gospel is. How would you explain the gospel in no more than a few minutes?*

Discuss

Read

Read Philippians 1: 12-13

"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ."

Play

Watch the first video clip at www.bridgeway.church/ambassadors

Ask

- How can God's ability to redeem any circumstance encourage you as you walk through your own trials?
- In the passage Paul talks about God using his circumstances to advance the gospel. What does it mean that God uses our lives and our circumstances to further the gospel? What are the implications of that?
- Are you ok with your life being used in that way? What hesitations or questions does it raise?

Read

Read Philippians 1:14-20

“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Ask

- In the sermon Pastor Lance talked about balancing the importance of being anchored in the truth, while also having the grace to recognize that none of us have perfect theology. He even said, “Everyone’s theology is screwed up!” What are some practical ways we can avoid being divisive as we seek to know the truth? What wisdom can we gain from this passage?
- How can we process disagreements about non-essential theological issues without becoming divisive?

Read

Read Philippians 1:21-26

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.”

Ask

- What do you think Paul means when he says, “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.”? What does it look like to live with that perspective?
- How can we learn to evaluate our lives from a heavenly perspective rather than an earthly perspective?
- How can that shift in perspective impact the way we go about our earthly lives?

Apply

Ask

Lance listed these five truths that can help us live out what Paul describes in this passage.

- The more we care about God’s opinion, our reputation doesn’t matter.
- The more we are building God’s Kingdom and not ours, the less we have to lose.
- The more secure our identity in Christ, the less words and opinions of others don’t stick.
- The more we believe in miracles, the less our circumstances impact us.
- The more we long for heaven, losing this world is less a burden.

Which of these truths do you need more of in this season? Pray for each other that God would root those truths deeply in your hearts.