



Letter to the Loyal Week 1

Hi One Church -

I am going to put my best efforts forward to give you a bit of extra study and perhaps devotional material here during our series on Philippians called "Letter to the Loyal." I hope it is helpful to you.

Week One: Philippians 1:1-6

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 1:1-6. NIV)

Book and Video Resources

Philippian Background

Better than any description I could give, please watch this video from the Bible Project. It is less than 10 minutes long.

Video Resource:

[Bible Project Video](#)

Book Resource:

We will be talking about nationalism in this series. If you want a book to look at on how this plays out in our times, I want to recommend:

[Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States](#)

By Whitehead & Perry

Reflection Questions

- In the sermon I talk about the Greek word that often gets translated as “servant” really meant “slave.” This is in another context. Here in the United States, this word means chattel slavery and the evil practice that has been present in our history. I say “has” because I don’t believe we have dealt with it so its impact lives on in us today (As well as the fact that there are so many in modern day slavery today). The word Paul wrote was meant as Romans understood “slave.” It is not that we are a “servant” and then can choose another job. We are in debt to the one that we serve. I want to invite you to wrestle with this.

What emotions kick up?

What do you dislike?

Does this make you want to disagree, or push away from what Paul is writing?

Can you be honest about whatever questions you have?

- In the sermon I talked about this one phrase that Paul uses. The Greek isn’t quite sure who he is talking about doing the remembering. “I thank my God every time I remember you.” Literal Greek “over (my) every remembrance of you” Or “over your every remembrance (of me)”

How would this read if he is talking about being grateful over his remembrance of the Philippians?

How does this change if he is grateful over their remembrance of him?

The theology of the letter isn’t changed, but there is a difference between the readings.
Both are true to the Greek text, so which do you find more compelling?

- We focused the sermon time on the idea of God completing this “great work” within us. I want to invite you to take some time to reflect on the “great work” God has done in your life, in the churches you have been a part of, and within this whole world.

What “great work” are you longing for?

What gains courage within you from Paul’s statement here?
