

The Disciple's Balance

Phil. 1:9-30

3/31/19 by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Series: What is a Disciple?)

➤ How does the context inform the meaning?

a) Historical/biblical context – Paul's experience in Philippi on his first encounter there (Acts 16)

b) Literary context

- Phil. 1:1-8 emphasizes relationship between missionary and supporting church/ mission teams

➤ What is the author's structure of the passage?

I. Prayer for the church (9-11)

A. What the church needs (9)

1. Abounding love (9a)

- "love" (*agape*) = "affection, tender and passionate attachment... [or] a virtue with such [power] that it is said to be the fulfilling of the law."
- "abound" to be abundantly furnished with something; overflowing.
- Such prevalent love of Christ that it flows out of our lives onto others.

2. Love seasoned with knowledge

3. Knowledge seasoned with discernment

B. Why it needs this balance (10-11)

1. Approve what is excellent

- i. Approve: "to recognize as genuine after examination, approve, deem worthy"
- ii. Excellence: "to approve of things that excel" "to excel, surpass one"
- iii. Recognize things that excel

2. Be pure and blameless

- i. Pure: "found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light"
- ii. Blameless: "without offense, not troubled by consciousness of sin"



iii. Lifestyles that are not **ashamed**

3. Be filled with fruit of **righteousness** through Christ

4. Glorify God

II. Examples from Paul's ministry (v. 12-30)

A. **Love** may abound (12-17)

B. With **knowledge** (18-21)

C. With all **discernment** (22-26)

III. Application to the **church** (v. 27-30)

A. Live worthy of the Gospel (27a)

B. Stand firm (27b-30)

1. In **unity** (27b)

2. Against **opponents** of the Gospel (28)

3. Stand firm in **suffering** and through **conflict** (29-30)

➤ **What is the author's emphasis as revealed in the structure?**

Preserving the balance of Christian love, knowledge, and discernment does not happen without regular prayer and attention

➤ **How does this apply to the church/ believer today? (How does this shed light on what a disciple is?)**

Remaining ever vigilant and steadfast in the balance of love, sound biblical teaching, and prayerful discernment is essential to avoid being deceived by false love and/or false teaching.

The Disciple's Balance

Phil. 1:9-30

3/31/19 by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Series: What is a Disciple?)

➤ How does the context inform the meaning?

- a) Historical/biblical context – Paul's experience in Philippi on his first encounter there (Acts 16)
- b) Literary context
 - Phil. 1:1-8 emphasizes relationship between missionary and supporting church/ mission teams

➤ What is the author's structure of the passage?

I. _____ for the church (9-11)

A. What the church needs (9)

1. Abounding _____ (9a)

- "love" (*agape*) = "affection, tender and passionate attachment... [or] a virtue with such [power] that it is said to be the fulfilling of the law."
- "abound" to be abundantly furnished with something; overflowing.
- Such prevalent love of Christ that it flows out of our lives onto others.

2. Love seasoned with _____

3. Knowledge seasoned with _____

B. Why it needs this balance (10-11)

1. Approve what is _____

- i. Approve: "to recognize as genuine after examination, approve, deem worthy"
- ii. Excellence: "to approve of things that excel" "to excel, surpass one"
- iii. Recognize things that _____

2. Be pure and _____

- i. Pure: "found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light"



ii. Blameless: “without offense, not troubled by consciousness of sin”

iii. Lifestyles that are not _____

3. Be filled with fruit of _____ through Christ

4. Glorify God

II. Examples from Paul’s ministry (v. 12-30)

A. _____ may abound (12-17)

B. With _____ (18-21)

C. With all _____ (22-26)

III. Application to the _____/disciple (v. 27-30)

A. Live worthy of the Gospel (27a)

B. Stand firm (27b-30)

1. In _____ (27b)

2. Against _____ of the Gospel (28)

3. Stand firm in _____ and through
_____ (29-30)

➤ **What is the author’s emphasis as revealed in the structure?**

Preserving the balance of Christian love, knowledge, and discernment does not happen without regular prayer and attention

➤ **How does this apply to the church/ believer today? (How does this shed light on what a disciple is?)**

Remaining ever vigilant and steadfast in the balance of love, sound biblical teaching, and prayerful discernment is essential to avoid being deceived by false love and/or false teaching.