

## STUDY 1. QUESTIONS

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### UNDERSTANDING THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH

1.
  - a. What, to you, are the characteristics of a great church?
  - b. Have you ever been a part of a “great church”?
  
2. **Read Philippians 1:3-11.**
  - a. What does Paul say about this church?
  - b. What clues does he give about his own situation?
  
3. **See Philippians 1:3, 1:8, 2:12, 4:1.**
  - a. What type of relationship is there between Paul and the Church?
  - b. Can you guess why Paul got on well with this church and not with others?
  
4. **See Philippians 1:7.**

There is a key word in this verse that is repeated in different forms in Philippians 2:1, 3:10, 4:14. You have heard the Greek word for this many times. It is *koinonia*, which is translated as fellowship.

  - a. In what ways has our church worked hard on creating “fellowship”?
  - b. What is the difference between knowing a person’s name and the concept of fellowship?
  - c. Where does Paul’s idea of fellowship differ from just getting to know a person well?
  
5.
  - a. Can you name a friend or friends who went with you through some horrible times? In what sense is that fellowship? What difference did it make?
  - b. Do you have many friends that you can actually “share” with? What difference does that make?
  
6. **See Philippians 2:1.**

Note that Paul speaks of “sharing in the Spirit”. What do you think he means by that?
  
7. Imagine what type of people would have made up the church for Paul to think this way of them. Do we have people in our church like that?
  
8. **See Chapter 1:9-11.**

If Paul were writing to the Doncaster Church, how would he complete the following sentences?

  - a. I thank God for you because .....
  - b. I pray for you so that .....