

STUDY 5. QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. **See Philippians 1:1.** Paul calls the church “saints”.
 - a. From what you have read of the Philippians would you say that they were a saintly church?
 - b. What picture does that word conjure up in your mind?
 - c. Do you think we have any saints in the Doncaster Church?
2. Paul says they were “Saints in Christ”. How does that alter the concept of what a saint is?
3. **Read Philippians 1:27.**

Which of the following aspects of life would have been most meaningful to the original readers? Why?

 - a. Think about life.
 - b. Think about family.
 - c. Think about work
 - d. Think about church
 - e. Think about recreation.
 - f. Think about money.
4.
 - a. In which of the above areas do you find it easiest to maintain a consistency with your faith and the way that you behave?
 - b. What is the most difficult aspect of taking your faith into the workplace?
5. See 1 Cor. 1:10, Phil. 4:2, Col. 3:13-14, Gal. 3:27-28.
 - a. What do these verses have in common?
 - b. Why is this emphasized in the NT?
6. Why does Paul need to encourage steadiness? What could cause the early church to get the wobbles? What were the threats?
7. **See Philippians 1:28-30.**

In the same context Paul tells the church not to be intimidated by their opponents.

 - a. Who do you think these opponents were?
 - b. Doesn't his advice sound a little confronting? What about grace and compassion?
8. **Read Phil. 2:14-15.**
 - a. Do you know people who could have “moan” or “complain” as their middle name? Why are they like that?
 - b. Why does Paul encourage people to get on with their Christian faith with a positive outlook? Is he overcoming an authority issue? Is he dealing with a personality problem? Would some people have found their faith to be disappointing?
 - c. This verse seems to carry the idea of submission? If this is so, how do you react?
9. Are there times that you have been a “grumbler”? When you did grumble, was it the situation that was wrong or was it the way that you saw it?
10. **Refer to Phil. 3:7-9.**

We have looked at this passage in a prior study. However, it has a lot to do with the way that we behave.

 - a. How do these verses influence the way that we live out our Christian lives?
 - b. What happens to our day-to-day Christianity, our ability to stand firm, our tendency to grumble or to be divisive when we think in these terms?
11. Is there any way that our day-to-day behaviour as a Christian has been challenged by this selection of verses from Philippians?