



## **“Fellowship” is *not* a Piece of Cake!**

Philippians 1:3-11

### **Introduction**

#### **I. (Philippians 1:3-6) The context of our fellowship = the gospel with its guaranteed completion.**

A. The context is one of **joy** in Paul’s and the Philippians’ relationship (1:3-4)

B. The **basis or reason** for Paul’s joy = their fellowship in the gospel (1:5)

##### 1. But what is “**the gospel**”?

It is more than a “message” (Phil 1:7, 12, 16, 27; 2:22; 4:2-3, 15)

It was proclaimed to Abraham and throughout the Old Testament (Galatians 3:8; Romans 1:1-4)

The gospel =

2. But how had the Philippians had **fellowship** (*koinōnia*) in the gospel?

C. Paul is very convinced of the **guaranteed completion** of the Philippians’ fellowship in the gospel (1:6)

#### **II. (Phil 1:7-8) The gospel-context of our fellowship also brings genuine relationships.**

A. Our relationships will have a heartfelt sense of teamwork (1:7)

B. We will also have deep longings and affection for one another (1:8)

#### **III. (Phil 1:9-11) However, the gospel-context of our fellowship demands growing discernment!**

A. Our love must be educated! (1:9)

B. This education helps us choose “the things that really matter”! (1:10a)

C. **The results** will be our good standing before Christ & the glory & praise of God (1:10b-11)

#### **Conclusion: A couple of questions about your fellowship!**