

Phil. 4:1

Vs. 1 is a very personal message.

They were family.

Jesus Christ unites us all together.

Vs. 1 Dearly and Greatly loved and longed for.

Most of us have gone thru separation from loved ones.

Lorri and I were separated between Kansas and Virginia.

Paul desires to be with this church.

Paul says, I yearn for this, I long for this.

He longed to see them, and converse with them.

They were dear friends.

Our world is small today. Instant communication. FaceTime and Skype. Texting and cell phones.

Young people do not comprehend the old world of communication.

Too expensive to call long distance and many letters were written and the post office was profitable.

Back in N.T. times, when you parted, there was very little contact at all. **No MEANS to.**

**Philippians 1:8** For God is my record (witness), how greatly I long after you

We can sense and feel the genuine care and kindness, the relationship demonstrated here.

This is so hard for the modern day church to comprehend spiritual relationships like this.

This type of church relationship is almost Non-existent in our :

drive thru church mentality - hurry,  
in our once a week attendance - you better be thankful i am here,  
in our mega crowd church so I can be entertained and  
hide amongst the throngs and not be accountable to anyone.

Do we have this kind of personal relationship with any of our missionaries?

Missionaries Blow in and blow out.

They may know the pastor but the congregation really does not know them.

These words express real affection, real relationship!

vs. 1 **My joy – my delight, you folks make me glad**

You are The source of my joy

**and My Crown**

my achievement – They were a living witness to Paul's ministry work and labor.

This is what it feels like when I walk into Emmanuel in Moldova or Grace in Seattle or Faith in Burrton.

**Proverbs 17:6** Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

vs. 1e **dearly beloved**--repeated again at the close of the verse

My Brethren = spiritual relationship

Paul went to Philippi, he suffered there, He preached and gave the gospel, people repented and were birthed into the kingdom of God.

Paul was a big part of their becoming a part of the family of God.

Maybe the reason we don't feel like family or we do not desire to have this is because we have not been in the process of seeing people birthed into the family and added to the church.

We are ho hum when people get saved or baptized, maybe it is because we are not a part of the work. Sowing watering and reaping.

When it's your baby, everything changes.

God says to this church to "Stand Fast".

Paul's Relationship gives the platform to speak powerfully into a persons life or into a churches life.

When the preacher is a real part of the congregation, when he cares, when he has been into your home and you into his home, when your lives have meshed together,

He has a platform to speak directly and honestly.

You know the heart from whence the words come from.

Real Affection allows for some strong things and personal things to be said.

Many pastors never or rarely speak into the lives of their people.

Parents lack this platform due not to having invested in the relationship before and therefore speak from a weak platform.

Sadly, many spouses lack this powerful platform in their marriages.

We need people who will sharpen iron (iron sharpens iron), who will wound us (faithful are the wounds of a friend) for our good.

They care enough, they love us enough to speak truth to us.

This is compounded when there is a relationship.

A person that cares Risks relationship, retaliation, for the betterment of their friend.

Rebuke a wise man and he will be wiser,

Rebuke a fool and he will hate you. Proverbs

The reason many times the pastor is of no real force within the flock is because of no real relationship with the flock.

House to house

God gave them some personal messages and Paul delivered them...vs. 2