



**Grace Life Church**  
*of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

# **Approving What is Excellent To the Glory of God Philippians 1:9-11**

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# Philippians 1:9-11

*9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

# Review

Paul is praying for the church

- Summarize prayer-Maturity in Christ
- Love would abound more and more
  - Divine love (Asking God that it would abound)
  - “God is love” & “love comes from God” (1 John 4:7-8)
  - So much of what we deem mature/godly is nothing if not accompanied with love (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

# Review

Love abounding with:

- Knowledge and discernment
- Our love must be controlled by & propelled by truth (Word)
- God loves us, therefore we love God, and others (1 John 4:19, 11)
- As we grow in our understanding of God's love towards us our loves towards God and others will grow
- Love that abounds with knowledge (truth) and all discernment (perception/applied truth in our lives)

*So that you may approve  
what is excellent*

*So that:* What is coming next is a progression from what came before (v9)

- Meaning what? If my love is not abounding more & more with knowledge and all discernment, I will not be approving what is excellent

What does it mean to *approve what is excellent*?

# *Approve what is excellent*

- *Approve*-Test, examine, scrutinize, deem worthy
- *YLT-proving the things that differ*
  - Not merely a determining what is good & what is evil
  - But a testing, scrutinizing what is best
  - A Christian that is maturing is abounding in love with truth & discernment (and based on that truth/discernment) they painstakingly scrutinize what is best (Will of God)
  - It is the striving in the believers heart to know and do God's will (This is not easy, but the on-going tension in the believer's life)
  - How do we know God's will? His Word

# *Approve what is excellent*

**Romans 12:2** *Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern (approve) what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect*

- The tension we face daily in approving what is excellent is to not be conformed to this world, but transforming our minds (Word) so we can test to discern what is the will of God leading to the perfect
- Approving what is excellent (best) is not asking “How close can I get to the world and still fulfill this Christianity stuff?”
- Approving what is excellent (best) is not asking “How can I do this and keep all my comforts, conveniences, etc?” (Luke 9:23)
- As we mature and approve what is excellent (weighing out what is the best way to fulfill God’s will) most people around you will think you are going too far.
- This should consume our lives
- And at times it can become discouraging (not seeing impact) and you want to give up, but I want to tell you God is worthy of the struggle

# *Approve what is excellent*

**Ephesians 5:15-17** *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

- We live in evil days, be careful, use your time wisely (eternal, not temporal), understand what the will of the Lord is
- We cannot be asking “how much of the world can I hang on to and still fulfill this?” **James 4:4** *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*
- Is your life defined by striving to know God & His will, so you can therefore approve what is excellent in your life and live according?
- When you live this way you are no longer living a reactionary life but a life according to God’s world



# *Approve what is excellent*

*And so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ*

- Note the progression (Abounding love, with knowledge (truth)/discernment, approving what is excellent, and so be pure & blameless for the day of Christ)
- Pure (sincere) and blameless (not causing to stumble/offenseless)
- If we have a love that is controlled by God's word, filled with discernment, leading us to test to find what is best (God's will) our lives will be sincere (in accordance with God's word). In accordance to what we say we believe
- Blameless-They will not be causing other's to stumble
- How will this impact your evangelism?
- **1 Thess 3:12** *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints*

# *And so be pure and blameless*

## *For the day of Christ:*

- **2 Cor 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*
- **1 Cor 3:12-15** *Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13each one's work will become manifest, for **the Day** will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

# *Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ*

- If our love (divine) is abounding with knowledge (truth) & discernment, we will be approving what is excellent, and be pure & blameless for the day of Christ, and we will be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ
- *Fruit of righteousness*-Good works and fruit of Spirit through Jesus Christ (Eph 2:10, John 15:1-5, Gal 5:22-23)

What is all of this to?

- *To the glory and praise of God* (Motivation)

**1 Cor 10:31** *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.*