

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.

Philippians 1:9-11

'and it is my prayer' - Name three benefits of regularly having times of prayer.

What area of your life have you seen your love for something abound? As Christians, why is it important that we are not content with 'status quo' love?

'with knowledge and all discernment' - Why are sincerity and zealousness not enough? Give an example of loving with and without wisdom.

'approve what is excellent' - This is a prayer for us to be able to sift through and test different ways of living and loving in order to choose the best. How do we balance striving for the best and relying on God's grace because we know we aren't perfect?

'be pure and blameless' - The idea is for us to not be a stumbling block to ourselves or others. How is it an act of love to make sure we live our lives in such a way that doesn't hinder anyone else's walk with Christ? What's an example of how we could hinder someone and how could we wisely change that?

'for the day of Christ' - Why is it helpful to love others with an eternal perspective?

'filled with the fruit of righteousness' - What kind of fruit should a Christ follower see in her/his life? Give some other verses for support.

'that comes through Jesus Christ' - None of this happens through self-determination or self-righteousness. Before we can begin to love others, what must we understand and enjoy first?

'to the glory and praise of God' - Our love is meant to reflect His love and point people to Him. What do Matthew 5:16, Hebrews 13:15-16, and 2 Corinthians 10:31 say about this same idea?