

# Everything's Going Great!

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## OPENING QUESTION

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On the optimist-pessimist scale, put an “X” where you see yourself; put an “√” where you would place Paul, the author of Philippians.

**Optimist** **Pessimist**

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

## READ Philippians 1:1–30.

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**1. Finish this sentence from your perspective: Every time I think of you, I:**

- A. Rejoice.
- B. Weep.
- C. Thank God.
- D. Gossip.
- E. Worry.
- F. Feel jealous.
- G. Pray.
- H. Other.

**2. Who have been your partners in spreading the Good News about Christ?**

- A. I primarily work solo.
- B. Fellow church members.
- C. My friends.
- D. Hardly anybody.
- E. Someone in my family.
- F. People I connect with on social media.
- G. I don't really do much to spread the Good News.
- H. Other.

**3. How does your love for others overflow more and more (vs. 9)?**

- A. It doesn't.
- B. I just pass on the love God has given me.
- C. If others show me some love, they are more likely to get some love.
- D. It's like the seasons—wet, dry, cold, warm (it varies).
- E. It takes a lot of discipline and purposeful planning on my part.
- F. I pick and choose who I love; and who I love in an overflowing way.
- G. I need to get more love in order for it to overflow more and more.
- H. Other.

**4. According to Paul, getting out the word about Christ is what matters, not the motives. What motives have you sensed for people who share Christ?**

- A. Love for Christ.
- B. Love for others.
- C. Personal recognition.
- D. Driven by guilt.
- E. Just going through the motions.
- F. Ego.
- G. Make Christianity look bad.
- H. Other.

**5. What are examples of your experiences of suffering for Christ?**

- A. I haven't.
- B. Nobody knows the trouble I've seen!
- C. Torture or prison.
- D. Financial insecurity.
- E. Loss of reputation.
- F. Feelings of rejection.
- G. When someone sits in my spot at church and I have to sit elsewhere.
- H. Other.

**6. Paul identified several reasons for joy/rejoicing. Which ones are also true for you?**

- A. Partnership in sharing Christ.
- B. Received God's blessings while in prison.
- C. Received God's blessings defending the truth of the Gospel.
- D. The message of Jesus is preached from pure motives.
- E. The message of Jesus is preached from impure motives.
- F. Anticipation that Christ will provide deliverance from prison.
- G. People around me turn to Christ.
- H. Other.

**7. What has God already done in your life? What is God still working on in your life (vs. 6)?**

**8. How would you explain Paul's statement in vs. 21: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"?**