

Nurture Shock, an Introduction

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Nurture Shock - An Introduction

Philippians 1.1-11

“Nurture shock,’ as the term is generally used, refers to the panic—common among new parents—that the mythical fountain of knowledge is not magically kicking in at all.” Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman

Contemporary Christians are facing a nurture shock of a different kind. We are not producing discipleship. We are, instead, creating a culture of entitlement. We worship a God we’ve created in our own image who loves us but does not challenge us.

Paul will challenge us in the book of Philippians:

1. downward mobility
(2.5-8)

2. In suffering we encounter the Spirit of God
(1.29)

3. We have a destiny, a good future which we are building today
(2.12-13)

Philippians 1.1-11: An introduction

Verses 1:1-2:

- Philippi was an extremely patriotic city, yet Paul identified himself with the offensive term “slave.”
- From there Paul writes out a prayer:

Verses 1:3-8:

- It is significant that Paul doesn’t introduce himself as an “apostle.” He and the Philippian church are friends.
- They entered into a three-way friendship covenant in which each party cares for the others:

The Philippians provided for Paul's needs.

Paul prayed for them.

Christ is completing the "good work" he began in all of them.

Verses 1.9-11:

- These are Paul's prayers for the Philippians:
- That their "love may grow more and more in knowledge and depth of insight."
- That they "may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."
- That they "will be filled with the fruit of righteousness to the glory and praise of God."