

# The Gospel, A Greater Reason to Live

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Philippians 1.2-26

Relational “balance”

Opposites attract and when they live for a greater reason these differences complement creating a functional relationship. Dysfunction is the conflict that is produced by those same differences when we lose our greater reason.

The book of Philippians is a peek into a functional relationship between Paul, the Philippian Christians, and God based on the Gospel as the greater reason to live.

The Back Story

Paul planted the church in Philippi on his second missionary trip. He entered the city in response to a vision from God. He found his first converts, a group of women, while praying at the river. He baptized the group. The Philippian church is notable for its female leadership. A slave woman possessed by a “python” spirit started following Paul. The demonic spirit caused her to shout things that obscured Paul’s message. He cast the spirit out which led to his unlawful beating and imprisonment. An earthquake destroyed the jail holding him which led to the conversion of the jailer. The city leaders then tried to evict Paul unlawfully. As a Roman citizen he demanded that they escort him out of the town honorably. Thus, began a long partnership between Paul and the Philippian church.

What is the Gospel?

- 1 Cor. 15.1-6: the Gospel “facts.”
- Col. 1.15-20: the Gospel explained and interpreted.

The Gospel is the story of what God did in Jesus to reconcile the

creation to himself.

The Gospel is a greater reason to live because it is:

1. The story of the cross and resurrection .
2. The. exaltation of Jesus.
3. The creation of the church.
4. The reconciliation of the creation.