

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES AND INTERACTIVE PDF

Ministering with Discernment

Let growing love and God's Word guide what you discern and how you serve.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
Ministering with Discernment	Pastor Jason Gillick
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Sunday, September 21, 2025	Philippians 1:9-11

TOPICS [Love](#) | [Discernment](#) | [Integrity](#) | [Intimacy with God](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 Let love lead discernment.

- Paul prays that love will abound more and more in knowledge and discernment. The goal is a heart growing in God's love, not suspicion toward people. ([Philippians 1:9](#))
- Return to fellowship with God and His Word. Knowing Him helps love deepen beyond a momentary feeling or an easy response. ([1 John 4:7-8](#); [John 15:4-5](#))
- Ask the Lord to help you see people with compassion before you try to correct or advise them. ([1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#))

"your love may abound still more and more"

STUDY [Philippians 1:9](#); [1 John 4:7-8](#); [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#)

02 Test what is excellent.

- Discernment helps the church approve what is excellent. It reaches beyond simply asking whether something is allowed to ask whether it draws us toward God. ([Philippians 1:9-10](#))
- Bring choices, conversations, and impressions under the Word. Examine them carefully and hold fast to what is good. ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#))

- Let discernment begin with your own heart, then use it to serve someone else with wisdom rather than to win an argument. ([Philippians 1:10](#))

“You want what's excellent in your life.”

STUDY [Philippians 1:9-10](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#)

03 Speak to the heart with care.

- A gentle answer and a timely word can reach a person beyond the surface of a dispute. Listen before deciding what to say. ([Proverbs 15:1,23](#))
- God's Word discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. Let its truth guide you without using it to shame or embarrass someone. ([Hebrews 4:12](#))
- Speak the truth in love, seeking the other person's growth and healing. ([Ephesians 4:15](#))

“it comes because you're full of God's love.”

STUDY [Proverbs 15:1,23](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Ephesians 4:15](#)

04 Live sincerely before the Lord.

- Paul connects growing love and discernment with sincerity and the fruit of righteousness. Wisdom must be joined to an honest life. ([Philippians 1:9-11](#))
- Bring your motives and hidden places into God's light instead of covering a crack to appear whole. Ask Him to make you genuine from within. ([Psalm 139:23-24](#); [1 John 1:7](#))
- Offer kindness without a hidden demand on the person receiving it. Let love be sincere. ([Romans 12:9](#))

“you come as you are cracks and all”

STUDY [Philippians 1:9-11](#); [Psalm 139:23-24](#); [Romans 12:9](#)

05 Release offense and guard the word.

- Paul prays for a life without offense as believers await Christ. Let the Lord show where resentment is taking root. ([Philippians 1:10](#))
- Forgive as Christ forgave you; do not trade the peace He has given for a moment of anger. ([Ephesians 4:31-32](#))
- Jesus warns that the word can be snatched from an unguarded heart. Hold onto what God has spoken after you leave the gathering. ([Mark 4:14-20](#))

“you can be without offense”

STUDY [Philippians 1:10](#); [Ephesians 4:31-32](#); [Mark 4:14-20](#)

06 Carry His love beyond the room.

- The fruit of righteousness comes through Jesus Christ and brings glory to God. Let what He is doing in you be seen in daily relationships. ([Philippians 1:11](#))
- Jesus says people will recognize His disciples by their love for one another. Practice patient, faithful care in family, friendship, and ministry. ([John 13:34-35](#))
- Keep receiving His love and truth so you can speak wisely and serve without ulterior motives. ([Philippians 1:9-11](#))

“God's love is faithful.”

STUDY [Philippians 1:11](#); [John 13:34-35](#); [Philippians 1:9-11](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

Philippians 1:9-11	1 John 4:7-8
John 15:4-5	1 Corinthians 13:1-3
1 Thessalonians 5:21	Hebrews 4:12
Proverbs 15:1	Ephesians 4:15
Psalm 139:23-24	Romans 12:9
Ephesians 4:31-32	John 13:34-35

How will love shape my discernment?

Where do I need God's love to shape the way I judge or respond?

What choice should I test against His Word before moving forward?

Is there a hidden crack, motive, or offense I need to bring into His light?

Who can I serve with sincere love and careful words this week?
