

Philippians 1:10 – “(I pray) that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.”

A PRAYER FOR EXCELLENCE

We may never be perfect in this body, but we can be excellent. Excellence comes from things that are excellent. It actually means to be of more value, specifically to surpass. The exhortation is to approve things that will help you surpass the ordinary. We are to test or discern excellence so we may become what Christ wants us to be. Things that are excellent glimmer and break through. Anyone can be ordinary, but a Christian should not be satisfied with ordinary. The difference in ordinary and excellence in the eyes of God is sincerity. This comes in the context of abounding love (1:9). Sincere love glimmers and breaks through. Anything without sincerity is not excellent, most of all love. Love without sincerity is not genuine. and unfortunately we are all plagued by it. If anything that is offensive to God it is a lack of authenticity. The Pharisees were inauthentic, and it led to gross hypocrisy. It always does. Inauthenticity is an “offense.” Learn a lesson from Paul’s prayer. Inauthentic is ordinary. If you are sincere about loving Jesus, you will notice when the Holy Spirit checks your spirit for not being authentic. If you do not obey Him, you will be an offense to Him.