

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Philippians 4:2-9--May 28th, 2023



Sermon Recap:

Standing Firm Together

I. Agreeing in the Lord (v.2-3)

Paul gives specific instructions to two individuals that have practical implications for the whole church.

a. Conflict

- Euodia and Syntyche were in conflict with one another. We do not know what the issue was, but there was division in the Philippian church between these two.
- Division in the church is never acceptable. We do not have to be uniform, but we are created, called, and converted to be unified.
- John MacArthur, *"Believers are belong to the same Lord, and are those one with each other. Therefore anything that denies our oneness with each other denies our oneness with Him."*

b. Resolution

- A "true companion" is called to reconcile the division.
- Disunity left unchecked presents a poor witness to the world.
- Looking to the interest of others, in humility, forgive and resolve broken relationships, displaying the gospel to the world

II. Rejoicing in the Lord (v.4-7)

"Rejoice in the Lord always," is a command. We do not "catch" joy, but we choose to practice joy as a fruit of the Spirit.

a. Cause

- If we ever fail to find a reason for joy, Paul provides cause enough. We rejoice "in the Lord."
- If we have nothing else, but we have Christ, we have reason to choose joy.

b. Compassion

- The same Christ that gives us joy gives us a reasonable and gentle spirit.
- We do not grumble or complain for our own way, but do all things without grumbling, in joy.

c. Confidence

- Our reason for joy is also our reason for confidence.
- Christ has redeemed us. He will finish the work he began. He will one day glorify us.
- If he has the power to meet our greatest need, be confident (not anxious) that he can care for you.
- That confidence creates peace that guards our heart and mind from anxiety.

III. Wisdom in the Lord (v.8-9)

a. Focus

- To ensure peace, we focus on the things that are true, honorable, just, pure, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.

b. Practice

- Paul has provided practical and theological instruction in this letter. To have wisdom means we practice what he can exhorted us to do.
 - Be unified, standing firm together.
 - Choose to rejoice in the Lord always.
 - Refocus out life on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise.
 - Deny the negative thieves of joy.

Discussion Questions:

- Read Romans 12:16, 14:19, 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3; 1 Peter 3:8. How important is it for believers to maintain unity? What can be done to improve relationships?
- What are the commands Paul gives in 4:4-6? How are they related to the character, presence, and promises of God?
- What does Paul's repeated command to "rejoice" tell us about the kind of joy he has in mind? Is this a feeling, emotion, action, or other?
- Read Matthew 6:19-34. What truths can you see that are crucial for ending anxiety?
- What truths about God should cause us to reject worry?
- How can we promote joy in our lives?
- What does 4:8 tell us about our thoughts? How can we shape and direct them?

Application:

- Our society in anxiety-ridden. What areas of your life do you face anxiety? How can you better lift those cries up to the Lord in confidence?
- Do you intentionally choose to focus your thoughts according to 4:8? How can Scripture help you in reorienting your live to more positive, Godly, Christ-exalting ways?
- What "thieves of joy" are present in your life? Speak to a brother or sister about these struggles and formulate a plan together to eliminate them.

