

Phil. 4

I have entitled today's message, "**Be of the same mind, the Lord's!**"

Phil. 4:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Phil. 4:1-5

Let us pray

You may be seated

Be of the same mind, the Lord's!

Vs. 1

Vs. 2

Exhortation #2

He entreats Euodias and Syntyche (soon too Kay), who appear to have been alienated from each other, to be reconciled.

A couple of disagreeing sisters.

Conflict amongst people.

Unfortunately, this is a Regular occurrence.

In marriage,

In family,

At work,
In church

These 2 ladies are not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible.

They were a part of the church and had been coworkers of Paul.

Paul says to Euodias and Syntyche what Abraham said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between me and thee."

Two Christian women were at variance.

Strife – adversarial relationship, bickering, contention, controversy, friction, quarrel, squabbling, discord.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and **disputings**:

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue,

A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

The Bible says that contentions come through one thing, anybody know? **Pride**

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention:

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

The spirit of self had got in and Paul pleads with them to come together again.

The spirit of others is the spirit of Christ!

What happened between these ladies tells us that the most excellent believers are not exempt from broken relationships and unresolved conflict.

This is a common danger.... let us be on our guard.

While the example of Euodias and Syntyche may be useful, that of Paul may be profitable to leaders.

This is an example of speaking to a problem in the church.

Paul addresses personally those who have need of reproof.

Paul calls them out by name.

Paul is not afraid to speak directly and openly to them.

We cannot be cowards nor walk on egg shells but we must be gentle and firm at times.

Many times we do not know who the involved parties are because other people champion the cause or have become pawns for those who have the real problems.

When we go to the source of the strife, and we remove the source, the STRIFE ceases.

Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 17:19 He loveth transgression that loveth strife:

Proverbs 20:3 *It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.*

Proverbs 26:20 *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer (slanderer, whisperer, gossip), the strife ceaseth.*

Proverbs 22:10 *Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.*

Those two ladies are told to be of the same mind.

Not their minds but the mind of the Lords.

Get on the same page

Philippians 2:2 *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife.*

Vs. 3

Paul pleads with his "true yokefellow," whoever he may have been, to help those ladies reconcile.

A true Yokefellow is someone who is in the harness with you, an equal to Paul.

A yoke signifies hard work.

Oxen are yoked together for work, and this person must have worked shoulder to shoulder with Paul.

These women were to be helped by Paul's partner.

All that is known is, that there was some disagreement between them, and the apostle entreats them to be reconciled to each other.

That they be of the same mind.

That they be united, reconciled.

Whether the difference related to doctrine, or to something else, we cannot determine what the problem was from this phrase.

Paul entreats them to give up their dissension of their own accord from the love of Christ.

They stand as permanent examples of the pettiness of bickering.

They stand as examples of the danger that arises from unresolved conflict in a church.

A man or woman can make the whole of life, including church life, burdensome, grievous and just unenjoyable.

Look at the harm done. The fall out!

1. Socially. shunned, chilled, embittered, cold shouldered, avoided – people dodge

2. Family. Some little offense, a sharp word is uttered and the family made miserable for the rest of the day.

3. Church. It can split up a Church.

Slandorous words whispered about a person or a pastor ruins them and defames their testimony.

The venom of slander sometimes comes under the appearance of prayer.

4. Internationally. A little thing can kindle a blaze among the nations. Ask Trump!

A few words by a leader may start a fire worldwide.

Europe used to be full of explosive materials and the peaceable lived in danger.

I hate to say this but it has returned to Europe.

Europe is a Powder keg and she is ripening for the Anti Christ.

There is a period when a quarrel can be squelched, but once it gets going, who can say where it will end.

In its earliest stages a fire can be quenched with a cup of water, but when it begins to spread, who can set the bounds to it?

The sin of slander is like water poured out.

We cannot put all the water back in the container again.

A thoughtless scandalous word goes from one to another,
gathering speed and expanding as it goes.

A snowball rolled in snow gathers rocks and leaves and sticks, just like gossip.

Many times that snow outlasts all the other snow.

Those who are so keen to detect evil in others are often times the most guilty themselves.

Anyone can be selected as the objects of bitter attacks.

Have you ever noticed the critters seem to find the best vegetables/fruit to eat?

They don't choose the rotten tomatoes.

Most slander would be starved if no one fed it.

So many are glad to hear evil, and repeat it and share it.

There are those who seem to have no other business but to pick up and spread evil reports.

They rejoice in a piece of juicy gossip as a buzzard does in road kill.

Titus 3:2 speak evil of no man,

Whatever the division/dissension, Paul had only one counsel to give, "Be of the same mind."

Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Vs. 2 "In the Lord" suggests remembrance of the important matters on which they were agreed —

Christians can agree to differ, and keep their views lovingly.

Disagreements amongst the disciples

Matthew 20:24 And when the ten heard *it*, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

Disagreements amongst Mary and Martha.

Notice the mode of Paul's interference.

He calls them by name.

Many problems of the church have the wrong 2 people trying to fix them.

Paul called on both of them equally.

Paul makes not the slightest reference to the cause of dissension.

Many times it is too hard to fully grasp and understand all the nuances of a hurt or offence anyway.

Many times things can be reconciled without the dirty laundry being exposed.

Many times we do not need to rehash the problem line by line and word by word.

We need the Spirit and mind of Christ.

From his apostleship and position as leader, Paul could have militarized his command but he rather beseeches them.

I beg of you, implore you and exhort you.

He beseeches them separately, and treats them with exactly the same consideration.

And to help the process along, Paul calls on a common friend to help them to a reconciliation (ver. 3).

Peace makers - someone who could help smooth the way.

This is delicate work, like surgery.

It can go well, and it can be disastrous.

God can use people to mediate in a marriage conflict or church conflict or family conflict.

THE PEACE BREAKERS —

1. Have their representatives.
2. Destroy their own happiness and others
3. Disturb the Church.
4. **concerned to get their way**

When it gets bitter and there is hate and we begin to see sinful actions, mark it down, this is not God's work, it is the devil's work.

Strife amongst Christians is ruinous: Because soldiers on the same team begin shooting one another.

This is how Stonewall Jackson was killed in Virginia. He was shot 3 times by friendly fire.

Our tongues can say the worst things.

Proverbs 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

In their Christian walk and plans.

They were professing Christians, and Paul exhorts them to make the Lord the great object of their affections, and, because of Christ, to bury all their petty differences and animosities.

Spend all eternity together yet cannot get along here on earth.

Think of the honor Paul assigned them — "Whose names are in the book of life."
Enrolled in Heaven.

Are our names in the book of life? If not listen to this,

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15

Since misunderstandings, miscommunication, hurt feelings, etc. are natural by-products of people working together, there will be times for sin to take root.

We must be committed to Biblical resolution, Biblical forgiveness, and applying principles from Scripture.

Listen to the Bible

Ephesians 4:27-32 Neither give place to the devil.

Vs. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

God has a policy that is most important in relationships.

A Conflict resolution policy

It is a crucial principle in living and working with others.

We must practice upfront leadership by resolving conflict.

This is how it works: if we do not like something and we cannot overlook it, we will tell each other.

Keeping the air and hearts clean.

We will not do it in public, or with the wrong spirit.

We will Speak to the proper person,

Speak to them privately,

Quietly, gently

lovingly,

and quickly.

If someone gets a burr under their saddle, they are to deal with us in the same way.

We will not embarrass one another publicly, nor allow any animosity to grow, nor defame the name of Christ.

Having this mode of operation will allow freedom in our relationships and a relaxed atmosphere.

Conflict resolution is based upon the Matthew 18:15 principle of working out difficulties between the individuals involved.

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Practicing this principle will save much heartache in life.

If someone approaches us with a concern or complaint regarding another, before we let him finish, we ask, "Have you spoken with that person regarding this issue?"

Most of the time, he has not.

We then say, "I am going to let him know that you need to speak to him." To which they usually reply, "You don't need to do that." Then we reply, "If it was important enough to bring it to me, then it is important enough to take it to the individual involved."

Now, last but not least, follow through and contact the other individual; let him know of the person who is supposed to come and talk with him.

Sending people to the right people eliminates gossip and backbiting.

It also sends a message that you will not entertain such conversations.

Behold what a fire we can start with our tongue.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;