

Pursuing Relational Harmony

STAND FIRM part 2 Philippians 4:2-3 Addressing Relationship Tension

Introduction:

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| #1 Live _____ Philippians 2:1-4 |
| #2 Focus on _____ Romans 12:1-8 |
| #3 Let _____ cover a multitude of sins 1 Peter 4 |
| #4 As far as it depends on you, make relational _____ Romans 12:18 |
| #5 Lovingly _____ defiant sin Matthew 18:15-18, Galatians 6:1 |

Philippians 4:2-3 *I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

Philippians 1:27 *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
Philippians 2:2 *make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose*

#1 Contentious PROBLEMS

2 *I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord*

Acts 16:13 *began speaking to the women who had assembled*

RH principle #1 = Focus on Christ as The Master in charge, not the persons, nor the conflict

#2 Clear-cut PLEAS

2 *I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.*

RH principle #2 = Take God's side, by studying God's Word and applying it authoritatively to the conflict, graciously but impartially.

#3 Contrasting PERSONS

1st The CULPRITS

2 *I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord*

RH principle #3 = Christian Conflict often requires a spiritually mature third party and other godly individuals to solve the problem

2nd The COACH

3a *Indeed, true companion*

SUZUGOS

Philippians 1:1 *Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:*

#4 Caring PROCESSES

3b *I ask you also to help these women*

RH principle #4 = Resolving Conflict usually requires a PROCESS, not a single step.

#5 Certain PURPOSES

3c *who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel*

RH principle #5 = Harmony is cultivated by focusing on priority issues, not petty ones

#6 Confirming PLAYERS

3d *together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers*

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.*

#7 Ceaseless PROMISES

3e *whose names are in the book of life*

Revelation 21:27 *nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

TAKE HOME:

A = Conflict is _____

Matthew 18:15 *If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private*

Ephesians 4:26 *BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger*

B = _____ entering into a conflict where Christ does not rule hearts

Proverbs 26:17 *Like one who takes a dog by the ears; Is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him*

C = Conflict must be _____ or contained

Matthew 5:23 *if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.*

D = Conflict has its roots in _____, which can only be cured by Christ in salvation and by dependence upon the Spirit and a will to obey God's Word in sanctification.

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH

1. What kind of relational tension have you experienced in a church in the past?
2. What was the stated cause of the tension and what was the real cause of the tension?
3. Why does Paul wait until Philippians chapter 4 to bring up the actual cause behind the disunity in Philippi?
4. What do you speculate the cause of the tension between these two women actually was?
5. Reflect on the RH (relational harmony) principles found in the outline. Are there any more principles you would add to those?
6. What part of the message to address relational tension seemed to speak to you most?
7. What part of the text had you not understood in the past but now do understand?
8. Who do you need to pursue in order to gain relational harmony with that person?
9. What steps do you need to take in order to pursue resolving relational tension between you and another?
10. What truths from this passage cause you to love Christ and worship Him in a greater way?

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