

Look to Shock Others with Humility

STANDING FIRM *by showing off the uniqueness of Christ part 4, Philippians 4:5 Chris Mueller*

Introduction:

*1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way **stand firm** in the Lord, my beloved. 2 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. 4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your **gentle spirit be known** to all men. The Lord is near.*

1 STAND FIRM 1

2 PURSUE RELATIONAL HARMONY 2-3

3 MANIFEST GENUINE JOY 4

4 SHOCK OTHERS WITH UNTAMED HUMILITY 5

#1 The MEANING to be SOWN *Let your gentle spirit*

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth;" 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously

1 Thessalonians 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

#2 The MESSAGE to be KNOWN *Let your gentle spirit be known*

Philippians 2:6 *He ... did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant... 8 ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death*

Matthew 11:29 *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.*

#3 The MASSES to be SHOWN *be known to all men*

#4 The MOTIVE to be OWNED *The Lord is near*

1 TIME

2 SPACE

Psalm 119:151a *You are near, O LORD*

Hebrews 13:5 *"I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU"*

TAKE HOME:

1 You must _____ to Christ in salvation

2 You desperately need to _____ God's character

3 You should want to _____ others with God's character

John 15:20 *'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you*

Mark 13:11 *When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 5:44 *I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

Philippians 4:5 *Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.*

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH

1. How would you describe a 'mature Christian' if someone asked you what it meant to be a mature Christian? What ways do you feel you are still 'immature'?
2. Simple question: Do you have JOY? Why or why not? What verses in the Bible do you need in order to battle any discontent in your life today so you can have JOY?
3. If Paul is commanding us to let our 'gentle spirit' BE KNOWN TO ALL - Ask yourself right now what about you is 'known to all'? In other words, what do people see in you when they are around you?
4. Can you think of a time you were treated unfairly or slandered? How did you respond? If you could turn time back, what would you change about that situation?
5. How can we guard our hearts or even train our hearts to not be irritated, intense, or legalistic over unimportant matters?
6. Which set of words describe you more when in a situation of being reviled or mistreated: {Impatient, intense, furious, inflexible, offended} OR {Gentleness, big-heartedness, forbearance, humble, gracious}?
7. Why do you think having a gentle spirit will cause us to stand firm?
8. How is our responding with gracious humility when we are sick or under trial or treated unjustly 'showing Christ off'?
9. What times in your life do you find it difficult to show others a spirit of gracious humility?
10. Why should the fact that 'the Lord is near' help us out when we find ourselves in difficult situations?
11. Have you turned from your sin in repentance and through faith depended on Christ alone for your righteousness and exchanged all that you are for all that He is?
12. This week meditate on Matthew 5:43-44; 1 Peter 2:20-23; 3:8-9; Romans 12:17 and think about how the Lord may be calling you to be different in the world.

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