

Philippians: Finding Joy Right Where You Are!

Key Scriptures

Philippians 4:1-5

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

² I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, 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 gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stirs up anger.

Key Point

Resolving conflict in the church is important to God and should be consistently practiced by His church.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the most memorable conflict you have read about or heard about in the last six months? What made it stick out in your mind?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- On a scale of 1-10, rank the level of stress and concern you are currently experiencing from any problem relationship.
- Whom do you consider to be your joy and crown? How does this affect your relationship with that person?
- Do you find your “stand” in the Lord to be firmer or weaker than it was a year ago? What has made the difference?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why does relational conflict rob us of peace? What price are you paying to allow this to continue?
- What specific steps does the apostle Paul give to help resolve relational conflict? List them and discuss each.
- Is there a relationship in your life that calls for you to follow this pattern? When and how will you follow God’s plan for peace (as far as it depends on you)?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Ask God to help you know to not procrastinate, and to gently resolve any relational conflicts you have this week.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Is there anyone in your relational network that you are currently at odds with? What can you do to try to reconcile with that person? If you need to, find a “peacemaker” to help you resolve the problem.