

Philippians 4:1-5 Discussion Guide

General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?
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Topics for Discussion:

- Perseverance
- Unity
- Peacemaking
- Joy
- Gentleness

Intro/icebreaker:

If you could bring back any fashion trend, what would it be? OR What's the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?

Discussion Questions:

? - What does "therefore" in Philippians 4:1 refer to? What positive things are to encourage & empower us? What dangers serve as reminders of the need for perseverance?

- One thing it refers to is the admonition in chapter 3 to diligently pursue Christlikeness. Since our goal is to be like Christ, we need to ask ourselves, Did Christ stand firm? Did He ever waver and sin? (Scripture declares He is "without sin" (Heb. 4:15) and therefore the perfect example for us to follow!)

? - The term translated "stand firm" in Verse 1 is a military word that pictures a soldier standing his ground in battle. Paul uses the same metaphor in Ephesians 6:11: "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." One aspect of standing firm spiritually is not allowing your Christian testimony to be compromised. In what ways are believers called to take a stand that is different from the world around us?

? - In this text, a spat (or a cacophony* if you will) between two women affected the unity of the body. Yet this passage also gives components of a healthy church; what are they?

? - Why is disunity a big deal? What could happen if it is ignored?

? - What thoughts or questions do you have about Christian joy? What about the idea of "commanded" joy?

? - Why should Christians exude merriment and joy? What characteristics exemplify a joyful life? How should the joy we find in Christ be reflected in our relationships with others?

? - When a conflict arises in the church, God's people need to be gracious & gentle. Think about a time someone harshly corrected you, how did it feel? Compare that to a gentle approach. What are the major differences between the two approaches? Why does it matter?

? - "Let your gentle spirit be known to all men..." Are you famous for your gentleness?

? - In Ephesians 4:15, Paul encouraged Christians to speak "the truth in love." Why are both needed? How can we be gentle but also stand for truth?

Extra: These are the questions I shared this morning: They are geared toward elder candidates but serve as useful tools for us all:

Must be uncontentious (I Timothy 3:3).

- Do I have a cooperative spirit when working with others, or am I quarrelsome and competitive so that I divide men by debating every point and forcing others to choose sides on minor issues?
- Do I enjoy controversy for the sake of controversy?
- Am I quickly attracted to someone else's battle, so that I soon become one of the chief propagandists?
- Am I a peacemaker striving to create harmony and unity?
- Do people who formerly fought each other find it difficult to sustain their feud in my presence?

Here is a second set of questions that we didn't get to this morning:

Must be gentle (I Timothy 3:3)

- Am I sensitive to the feelings of others so that my words and actions reflect a tenderness suitable to soothing the hurts of other people?
- Am I blunt or brash when confronting someone who has erred?
- Am I tactless with sensitive people, finding out much later that I hurt them?
- Do I lose patience with people who have weakness, or is my heart easily moved to constructive pity?
- Do I weep with those who weep, or am I the kind of person who prides himself on never shedding a tear?
- Am I considered gentle by those who know me best?
- Am I so filled with the Spirit that the daily "collisions" which I have with other people and their ideas do not cause me to erupt with feelings and words of anger?
- Do I often react negatively without waiting to hear all the facts? Do I quickly jump to defend my rights?
- Do I have a residue or bitterness against others which causes me to "pop off" over little things?
- Do I control my outward show of emotions but rage internally?

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Dictionary

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ca·coph·o·ny

noun

noun: **cacophony**; plural noun: **cacophonies**

a harsh **discordant** mixture of sounds.
"a cacophony of deafening alarm bells"

Similar: [din](#) [racket](#) [noise](#) [discord](#) [dissonance](#) [discordance](#) [caterwauling](#) [▼](#)

Origin

GREEK

kakos
bad

GREEK

phōnē
sound

ill-sounding

kakophōnos

kakophōnia

cacophonie

cacophony

mid 17th century

mid 17th century: from French *cacophonie*, from Greek *kakophōnia*, from *kakophōnos* 'ill-sounding', from *kakos* 'bad' + *phōnē* 'sound'.