



“The Godly Filter”
Philippians 4:8-9
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians

Introduction:

A Crisis of Incivility: An Epidemic of Disrespect

civility: Latin: *civilis* = befitting for a citizen

incivility: Latin: *incivilis* = to not act like a citizen. (cf. Philippians 3:20-21)

John 13:35 - “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- Civility is the art and act of caring for others.

Galatians 5:15 “But, if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”

Proverbs 26:18-19 “Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, “Was I not joking?” cf. James 3:2-12

Our Text:

Philippians 4:8-9 - “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

I. THE GODLY FILTER

Filter #1 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing TRUE?

Filter #2 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing HONORABLE?

Filter #3 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing RIGHT?

Filter #4 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing PURE?

2 Timothy 2:21 - “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

Filter #5 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing LOVELY?

Proverbs 11:22 - “As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.”

Filter #6 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing OF GOOD REPUTE?

Filter #7 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing EXCELLENT?

cf. 2 Peter 1:5-8

Philippians 2:4 - “...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Filter #8 - Is what I am thinking, saying or doing WORTHY OF PRAISE?

II. THE WORKING METHOD

A. DWELL ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8 - "...dwell on these things..."

"...think about these things." "...mediate on these things." "...let your mind dwell on these things." (NASB, 1977)

We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)

B. LEARN THESE THINGS FROM OTHERS

Philippians 4:9 "The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me"

C. PRACTICE THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:9 - "...practice these things..."

Titus 2:2 reminds us that older men are to be dignified.

Titus 2:3 points out that older women are to be reverent in their behaviors.

III. THE LASTING RESULT

Philippians 4:9 - "...and the God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Conclusion:

Psalm 39:1 - "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."

Psalm 141:3 - "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. Read Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

2. How are you doing in each of these areas?

	Winning	Struggling	Losing	Comment:
I am dwelling on that which is:				
True	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Honorable	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Right	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Pure	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Lovely	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Of good repute	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Excellent	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	
Worthy of praise	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1	

3. What unhealthy situations do you need to avoid?

4. What did you get most out of this message?