

- Theme: With eyes on heaven, stand firm in harmony, help and joy, building an atmosphere of forbearance.

Stand firm in the Lord (4:1)

- “Therefore since Christ will return to transform us & subject the world, let’s...
- “...stand firm in the Lord...”
- How? “Live in harmony in the Lord...” “Help those in conflict...” “Rejoice in the Lord...”
- First, he affirms their relationship.
 - “My beloved brethren... who I long to see...My joy & crown”

Come to Agree in the Lord (4:2)

- Stand in these ways...
- “I urge Euodia and Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord...” literally: “think the same...”
 - “I urge”; *para+kaleo* = come alongside (*para*) to appeal, exhort, implore (*kaleo*)
 - “Euodia & Syntyche” two key women in Philippi (Lydia?)
 - “I ask you true yokefellow to help these who have struggled with me in the Gospel...”
 - Struggle; *'sunathleo'* co-athletes
- “...with Clement & my fellow workers (*'sunergos'*) whose names are in the book of life”

Rejoice in the Lord (4:4,5)

- “Rejoice in the Lord...” (2 times!)
- “Let your forbearing spirit (reasonableness, ESV) be known...”
 - Forebearing is being evenhanded, thorough, fair. It is knowing the rules and how to apply them, not woodenly but with grace. It doesn't push legal rights to moral wrongs.
 - Become known by how you handle conflict!
- Why? “the Lord is near!”

Keeping Our Eyes on Heaven (4:5)

- Forebearance sets the atmosphere for living in the church, the colony of heaven. Ps. 133:1
- Mature runners get their joy from the success of team runners
- They have a stake in seeing conflicts resolved. Do you?
- Hindrances to resolution...
 - Oversensitivity & inability to tolerate differences
- What right do I have to stay in conflict with someone Jesus died to reconcile? Get the RW360 App and find help applying His work to your relationships.
- Summary: Stand fast! Agree, help others agree & rejoice.

