

# Conflict Between Believers

Philippians 4:1-3

A dark, atmospheric tunnel with a bright light at the end. The light reveals a landscape with a large, dark sphere, possibly a planet or moon, partially illuminated by the sun. The scene is framed by a dark, circular opening, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The text "Does it make a difference?" is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

**Does it make a difference?**



## Philippians 4:1-3

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.



# Recap

- Rejoice!
- Beware of False teaching centered on pride
- We are saved by grace through faith
- Our “righteousness” is forgettable
- Lay hold of Christ and be transformed by relationship
- Follow Paul’s Example
- Remember we are citizens of Heaven

# Beloved Brethren! (1)

- Paul has a deep love and concern for the Philippians
- He rejoices thinking of them speaking of them fondly
- From this place he encourages and exhorts
- From this place he builds up those he is writing
- *“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” ~Theodore Roosevelt*
- Does how we fight, correct, stand, etc. reflect this?

## Slide 5

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- 3** Paul uses "beloved", agapetos 2x here - in the midst of their struggle and disagreements, he still loved, cherished, "had favorites" with them BOTH!  
*Anthony Catapano, 4/19/2022*
- 2** "stand firm in the Lord" steko, present active imperative. This is a battle formation to keep people from fleeing in the midst of battle. Being able to count on one another to fight the "bigger battle" as one  
*Anthony Catapano, 4/19/2022*
- 1** Paul called them "my joy and crown" - symbol of contented peace and victory  
*Anthony Catapano, 4/19/2022*



# Euodia & Syntyche (2)

- Paul in this verse speaks to a very specific situation
- Euodia & Syntyche We know nothing about them!
- Mentioned nowhere else in scripture yet their argument is immortalized forever!
- AFTER expressing his affection for them he corrects
- *phroneo*: to exercise the mind, to have a sentiment or opinion, interest oneself with concern or obedience, set affection on, be like minded



## *phroneō*

Php 1:7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Php 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Php 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Php 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;





## *phroneō*

Php 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Php 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

Php 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

# Harmony in the Lord (2)

- Encouraged by one who loves them to be of one mind
- Harmony is not sameness of notes it is difference notes within the same chord
- Much of conflict resolution is “work out differences”
- Paul reminds them of their Common Spiritual Universal: they both belong to Christ
- Surrender to His will over our attitude



# Mediators of Harmony (3)

- Paul enlists assistance towards this reconciliation
- Calling on his *suzugos*—companion, lit. yoke-fellow
  - Remember their common struggle with Paul
  - Remember their common goal of the gospel
  - Remember their brothers and sisters in Christ
  - Remember their common destination
  - Book of Life!



# Path to Reconciliation

1. Confession-admission of sin recognition of harm
2. Forgiveness-commanded release of anger over sin
3. Repentance-turning away from sin to do what is right
4. Restitution-“making it up” to restore trust
5. Reconciliation-restoration of relationship