



# **“OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE & PEACE!”**

## **Philippians Chapter 4:1-7**

### **(v1-3) OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE!**

*Go for God!*

(v1) Paul reveals his tender heart toward the believers by calling them his “**BELOVED**” twice in verse one. The Greek word for “*beloved*” is *agapetos*, which is *God’s pure love*; we find this word used in Matthew 3:17 - *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

- Paul also refers to the body of believers in Philippi as his “**CROWN**,” which gives reference to a laurel wreath received by an athlete for winning a contest (1 Cor. 9:25) or by a person honored by his peers at a banquet as a symbol of success or a fruitful life!

- He then encourages us to “**STAND FAST**,” this Greek term was often used to describe a soldier standing at his post; here it is a military command.

(v2) Euodia (*good journey*) and Syntyche (*fortunate*) were two women believed to be serving in the church and were called upon to have the “**SAME MIND IN THE LORD**,” which infers a personal conflict between the two.

- **Do you have any personal conflicts? Let us learn how to deal with personal conflicts.**

> **THERE ARE SIX STEPS TO UNITY:** (From: *The Peacemaker* by Ken Sande)

- **Step #1 - Overlook the Offense** - Proverbs 19:11 - *A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

- **Step #2 - Discussion** - Matthew 5:23-24 - *“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

Matthew 18:15- 15 - *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*

- **Step #3 - Negotiation** - Philippians 2:4 - *Do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

- **Step #4 - Mediation** - Matthew 18:16 - *But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

- **Step #5 - Arbitration** - 1 Corinthians 6:4 - *Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!*

- **Step #6 - Church Discipline** - Matthew 18:17 - *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

(v3) Here Clement (*merciful*) with the two sisters are given honorable mention, as well as *all the fellow workers*; let us discover how we are to work together peacefully in the body of Christ, His church according to Romans Ch. 12 (rf. 1 Corinthians 12:12-30).

- **What is this “BOOK OF LIFE?”** - A heavenly book in which the names of the righteous (the redeemed or saved) are written. The concept of God's having a "book of life" was first enunciated by Moses, who prayed that God would blot him out of God's book rather than dooming his fellow Israelites (Ex. 32:32-33); this book is also found in Daniel 12:1.

In the **New Testament** - Luke 10:17 - *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*

Hebrews 12:23 - *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven. We also find the “Book of Life” several times in the Apocalypse (The Book of REVELATION) - Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27; 22:19.*

(v4) **REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! AGAIN I WILL SAY REJOICE!** Unger writes, *“Spiritual joy is called a “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22); there is “joy in the faith” (Philippians 1:25).*

- Its objects are God Himself (Psalms 43:4; Isaiah 61:10); the *promises* (Philippians 3:3; 1 Peter 1:8); the *gospel* (Psalms 89:15); the prosperity of Christ's kingdom (Acts 15:3; Revelation 11:15,17); the happiness of a future state (Psalms 16:9-11; Romans 5:2; 15:13).

- This spiritual joy is permanent (John 16:22; Philippians 4:4) and unspeakable (1 Peter 1:8).”

(v5) Let your GENTLENESS be known to all; that is to be kind, considerate, and patient.

**(v6-7) OUR PRAYERS AND THE PEACE OF GOD!**

(v6) ***“Be ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING” means STOP WORRYING EVEN ABOUT ONE THING!***

> **How?** - Fret and worry indicate a **lack of trust** in God’s wisdom, sovereignty, or power. In Proverbs 3:5-8 - ***Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.*** (Matthew 6:25-34)

- ***“in EVERYTHING by PRAYER and SUPPLICATION, with THANKSGIVING let you REQUEST be known to GOD.”*** Gratitude to God accompanies all true prayer.

The word ***“SUPPLICATION”*** means to *petition* (Gk. *deesis*, “asking”). *Deesis* is the asking of favor in some special necessity.

(v7) Here we find the results of sincere **PRAYER**; prayer produces the ***“PEACE OF GOD.”*** This is an inner calm or tranquility, which is promised to the believer who has a thankful attitude based on unwavering confidence that God is able and willing to do what is **best** for His children (cf. Rom. 8:28).

- This peace ***“surpasses all understanding,”*** it transcends human intellect, analysis, and insight; Jesus said in John 16:33 - ***These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”***

- Prayer will ***“guard”*** your ***HEART AND MIND***; the word **guard** is a military term meaning ***“to keep watch over.”*** **God’s peace guard’s believers from anxiety, doubt, fear, and distress.**

Romans 5:1-2- ***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

Isaiah 9:6- ***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.***

Isaiah 26:3-4 - ***Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.***

