

## **Defused: Keeping Calm in Chaotic Times**

### **Be Reconciled to One Other**

#### **Philippians 4:2-3**

**Defused:** We began this series last week by discovering the first step to keeping calm in chaotic times is to be rooted in Christ Jesus. Today, we look at the next step, being reconciled to one another.

*“I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”* **Philippians 4:2-3**

**Main Idea:** Keeping Calm in Chaotic Times Requires Relational Reconciliation.

#### **Four Steps of Conflict Resolution from Philippians 4:2-3**

##### **I. Pray About It** – *“I entreat Euodia & I entreat Syntyche...”* **4:2a**

*“Little differences...may hinder the work of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is like a dove. Doves love quiet places; they do not come where there is noise and strife. Love should reign: peace should predominate. If there is anything contrary to such a state as that, God grant that it may soon be brought to an end.”* **Charles H. Spurgeon**

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* **1 Corinthians 13:7**

##### **II. Discuss It Privately** – *“...agree in the Lord...”* **4:2b**

*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”* **Matthew 18:15**

##### **III. Invite a Mediator** – *“...Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement...”* **4:3a-3b**

*“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”* **Matthew 18:16**

##### **IV. Take It to the Church** – *“...and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”* **4:3c**

*“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”* **Matthew 18:17.**

If you don't have peace at home, then it's hard to have peace elsewhere. When things are peaceful at home, you can face anything the world throws at you. The same is true for our church family. If we're peaceful here, then we can be effective for the mission of God. If not, we never will be...

Did you notice how many times Paul mentions the work in these two verses on conflict resolution? *Yokefellow (true companion) ...labored side-by-side in the gospel together...fellow workers.* Paul's concern over this conflict among sisters in Christ was clear; it was going to hurt their collective mission! People in Philippi were dying without Christ and the church could not be effective at reaching them while quarreling amongst themselves. Reconciliation was not only best for the women, the church, and Paul; it was imperative to the mission! And it was a key component of God's plan...

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself & gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, & entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”*

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

To keep calm in chaotic times you must first be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and secondly be reconciled in your relationships with one another. This will give you the internal stability you need to deal with a constantly unstable world.

#### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities**

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans (2019)
- *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig Keener (1993)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Walter Elwell (2001)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* – David Dockery (1998)
- *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* – Richard R. Melick (1991)
- *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians* – Max Anders (1999)
- *Spurgeon Commentary Series: Philippians* – Charles Spurgeon (2014)