

Standing Fast

Phil 4:1-23

1. Intro

1. Paul continues in his instructions to the Philippian saints.
 1. He sees them as his joy and crown
 2. He sees conflict
 3. He warns them of worry
 4. He calls them to right thinking.
 5. He is thankful for their support.

2. Affection for the Saints

1. Paul instructs the Philippians to “**stay true to the Lord.**”
 1. The words, “stay true” point back to the preceding words of instruction.
 1. Having the attitude of Jesus; Living properly in Jesus; pursuing the right goal.
 2. These are Paul’s brothers and sisters, his “beloved”, whom he longs to see.
 1. They are his “**joy and crown,**” Paul’s earthly pleasure(joy), and a part of his eternal reward (crown-I Thes 2:19)
 1. We have an obligation to those who we have lead to Christ.

3. A Disagreement

1. It was to women that the apostle first preached the gospel in Philippi. (Acts 16:11-16.)
2. The disagreement was between two of Paul's co-workers (Euodia (yoo-od-ee'-ah), Syntyche (soon-too'-khay)) v. 2-3
 1. They had the desire to see the gospel spread (3)
 1. Was it the way it was done?
 2. Others in the church were called to help settle the disagreement.
 3. Paul emphasizes their names being in the book of life. (3c)
3. We see conflict in other NT churches.
 1. Ananias & Sapphira; Food distribution in Acts; Peter & Paul (Antioch);
 2. In spite of this the church continued to grow.
 3. Spiritual battle
4. Conflict is not the issue; it is how we come out the other side that counts.

4. Maintain Unity

1. Following the stated disagreement, Paul gives us instructions on resolution
 1. Rejoice (4)
 1. Let your spirit be lifted up.
 2. Show consideration (gentleness) (5)

3. Do not worry (6a)

1. Worry (anxiety) saps our energies and focuses our thinking on all the ways that things can go wrong.

1. In most cases, worry probes possibilities that never occur

4. Exchange it for prayer (6b)

1. Prayer is an antidote to worry, prayer is productive

2. Prayer is taking these concerns to God and looking to Him for the solution.

3. Prayer acknowledges our weakness and dependence upon God.

4. Prayer allows us to “take our burden to the Lord and leave it there.”

5. Be thankful (6c)

2. The result is you will experience peace. (7)

5. Christians Mental Attitude (8-9)

1. We are to fix our thoughts on correct things.

1. By doing so it will solve the disagreements and take away the worry.

2. The Christian must give priority to those things that are eternally and ultimately true over those things that are merely temporally true.

1. Our eyes should be focused on Christ.

3. Paul sets the example (9)

1. These things you have seen in me.

1. I have followed after Christ; He is my example

2. Practice these things.

1. I have not only told you about them, but have lived them.

6. Thankful for Support

1. Paul expresses his thankfulness to the Philippian believers. (10)

1. They knew about his state and helped him out.

2. In the course of thanking them he give us information on how to be content. (11-12)

1. Bringing everything back to reliance on Jesus (13)

7. Conclusion

1. We can see how important relationships are to our faith.

1. It is the strong love and affection binding Paul to the Philippians that serves as the basis for his teaching and correction.

2. We see that the Bible teaches us to put away thoughts of worry and focus on what is good and true.

3. Finally, continue in the things that you have been taught.

1. We not only need to believe certain things, but we need to live them out.