

Philippians 4 Topical Bible Presentation

1. A quarrel within the church at Philippi (1 – 3)

- a. Euodias and Syntyche were Christian women and members of the same church, yet they had a significant disagreement that concerned the Apostle Paul.
 - b. Paul encouraged them to “be of the same mind in the Lord”.
 - c. What can we learn from this example?
 - i. Although we serve the same Lord, we may have disagreements from time to time.
 - ii. It is the church’s responsibility to help resolve these differences in a godly way (4:3).
 - iii. What am I doing to promote unity at church? Do I need to be reconciled with someone today?
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2. How then shall we live? (4 – 7)

- a. No matter what our earthly circumstances are, we should rejoice in the Lord always!
 - b. Our life should demonstrate moderation in all things – neither too far to the left nor to the right.
 - c. When our trust is placed completely on the Lord, we need not worry about anything.
 - d. When we find ourselves developing cares and concerns, we need to take them to the Lord in prayer.
 - e. When we walk with the Lord, He gives us a special type of peace that Jesus described in John 14:27.
 - f. How do I rejoice in the Lord and avoid worry (even when times are difficult)?
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3. What are we thinking about? (8 – 9)

- a. We should use verse 8 as a “thought filter”. This will help us to have the mind of Christ (2:5).
 - b. If the thought cannot pass through this filter, we should cast it aside.
 - c. What do I spend the most time thinking about? Will it pass through this filter?
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4. How do we feel about where God has placed us in life? (10 – 13)

- a. No matter where we are, we should be content in the Lord (Paul wrote this while in prison).
 - b. Whether we have a lot or a little in this life, our confidence has to be fully on the Lord (consider Proverbs 30:8-9).
 - c. How do I feel about where God has placed me in this life? Am I truly content in Him or am I always asking “why”?
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5. How do we feel about giving to others? (14 – 20)

- a. The church at Philippi was the first to ask Paul about giving and receiving.
 - b. The Philippians understood it was more blessed to give than to receive and they helped provide for Paul’s physical needs.
 - c. Paul deeply appreciated the gifts he received from the Philippians.
 - d. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - e. What is my attitude toward giving to others in need?
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Key words

4:3 Yokefellow – an adjective meaning yoked together. Similar to a comrade or partner. It is unknown who exactly Paul was referring to.

4:6 Careful – a verb meaning not to be anxious. As Christians, we are not to worry.

4:7 Through – can be understood as “in” Christ Jesus.

4:8 Of good report – an adjective meaning well-sounding, appealing, or perhaps gracious.

4:8 Virtue – a noun meaning moral goodness or moral excellence.

4:10 Flourished – a verb meaning to grow up again or bloom again, can also be thought of as revive.

4:12 Instructed – a verb meaning that Paul has learned the secret to being content in plenty or in hunger.

4:14 Communicate – a verb meaning to become a partaker together with others; share.

4:18 Odor – a fragrant smell.

Key people

Euodias – name means “a good journey”. She was a female member of the church at Philippi and labored very diligently in the Lord’s vineyard with the Apostle Paul. Paul exhorted her to be of the same mind with Syntyche. From this scriptural context, it would appear that Euodias and Syntyche were at variance with each other.

Syntyche – name means “with fate”. She is another female member of the church at Philippi that was also a co-laborer with Paul. Syntyche was encouraged to make reconciliation with Euodias.

Clement – uncertain. May have been the Bishop of Rome from 88 to 99 AD.

Epaphroditus – he delivered a gift from Philippi to Paul and then returned this Epistle as part of a thank you to the church. Epaphroditus is decried by Paul as a Brother, fellow laborer, fellow soldier, messenger and minister. You may recall from chapter 2 that he was very sick and close to death.

Memory verses

4:4-7, 8, 11, 13, and 19

Reference verses

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Proverbs 30:8-9

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.