

## Week 9 - PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

# To Be the Unified & Steadfast Church

The last section of the body of the epistle deals with the same two subjects as the preceding two sections, unity and steadfastness, but in more detail. Paul gave his readers specific instructions about what they should do. Unity needed restoring, and steadfastness needed encouraging. (Constable, 2013)

### v. 1-3 **Be Reconciled to the Christian Community**

5 Part Recipe for Conflict Resolution (Howard Hendricks)

1. Rejoice in the Lord – get beyond yourselves and look to the Lord
2. Let your gentleness be evident to all – speak with kindness to each other
3. Do not be anxious – relax and give it all to God
4. Be thankful – A simple act of expressing gratitude for blessings
5. Present your requests to God – Prayer realigns us and restores peace

### v. 4-5 **Be Gracious Globally**

*“The gracious person does not insist upon his or her own rights or privileges.” (Constable)*

### v. 6-7 **Be Peaceful Inwardly**

*“Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasure and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them; tell Him your dislikes, that He may help you to conquer them; talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself as to others.” (Francois Fenelon, 1691)*

### v. 8 **Be Righteous Comprehensively**

Think on such things...

*whatever* is True, Honorable, Right, Pure, Lovely, Admirable, Praiseworthy

### v. 9 **Be A Disciple Maker Dutifully**

Paul never leads from behind and neither should we. He modeled in his own life and behavior all that he believed about the Lord and understood in the Gospel – namely that the regenerate, sanctified, restored image of Christ is being fashioned in himself. That is why he could confidently tell the disciples to imitate him as he imitates Christ. We confidently and boldly make disciples through mentoring and modeling because we know that the only thing of ourselves which needs to be imitated in others, is the Christ being fashioned inside us.

**Philippians 4:1-9** Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

**4** So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, in this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

*Practical Counsel*

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, I also ask you, true partner,<sup>[a]</sup> to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your graciousness<sup>[b]</sup> be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally<sup>[c]</sup> brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. <sup>9</sup>Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

