

Studies in Philippians

Lesson VII

Text: Philippians 4:1-9 (NIV)

¹Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Questions for Discussion

1. Paul has strong feelings towards the Christians in Philippi. How does he refer to them (vs. 1)?
 - How strongly do you feel about the family of God in the congregation that you belong to?
 - Are there any brothers/sisters in Christ whom it would be difficult to say these things about?
2. Paul has special instructions to give two individuals—who are they and what was it that he wanted them to work on (vs. 2)?
 - Why do you suppose Paul felt it necessary to call them out in such a public manner (vs. 3)?
 - How can the church proactively help in the healing of broken relationships in the Body?
 - What is a “loyal yokefellow” (vs. 3a)?
3. How does rejoicing in the Lord promote unity and bring out the best in us and in the congregation as a whole? (vs. 4)

NOTE: We'll be discussing verses 4-9 in more depth in our next lesson. In the meantime, you can contribute to this group Bible study in a meaningful way by committing these verses to memory, praying that God will apply them to your heart, and conscientiously weaving these principles into the fabric of your life.