

PAUL'S APPEAL FOR UNITY

Sermon Outline

An Exposition of Philippians 4:1-5
By Pastor Brent Tremblay, Sunday, May 10, 2020

Theme: this friction between two women in the church must cease. Otherwise it could harm the entire church.

1. Paul Expressed His Love For Them (v1)

- “Therefore” in light of all the wonderful promises (from 3:20) (v1a)
- He expressed his love and longing for them. (v1b)
- They were the source of his greatest joy. (v1c)
- He encouraged them to maintain their strong standing before the Lord. (Rom 5:1-2) (v1d)
- GUARD against anything that would disturb their relationship with God and with one another.

2. Paul's Appeal To Unity (v 2-3)

- Paul pleads with them to stop fighting and arguing, and to be of the same mind. (1:27; 2:2-3) (v2)
- The entire church was affected – everybody in the assembly knew about it. (1 Cor 5:6; Heb 12:14-15; Eph 4:25-27)
- This issue had to be addressed. (v3a) “help these women”, or, “don't let it slide”/bring restoration.
- These were GOOD women! (v3b) They were loyal, dedicated, devoted and hard-working. And they were friends.
- Every believer must be on guard against subtle satanic accusations and fleshly insinuations against their brothers and sisters in the Lord. Recognize it and put a quick stop to it.

3. Keep Rejoicing! (v 4-5)

- 2x “rejoice” – i.e., a continual and habitual action (v4)
- “the Lord is at hand”, NOT second coming, but God is near and can help you with this NOW! (v5)

Bible Study Questions

1. Why did Paul address the church in such an affectionate way? (v1) Why did he “love” them, and “long” for them? Why did he describe them as being his “joy” and “crown”?
2. What does it mean to “stand firm in the Lord”? (v1) - (Rom 5:1-2; Eph 6:10-14 – note how many times you see the word “stand” in the Ephesians text.) (Ex 14:13-14; 2 Chron 20:17)
3. Why did Paul address this issue between Euodia and Syntyche in the letter? (v2) (See 1:27 and 2:2-3)
4. What effect could this argument have on the body of Christ? (1 Cor 5:6; Heb 12:14-15)
5. Does this mean we should never speak our minds in the church? How should we do this? (Eph 4:15a; Eph 4:25-27; Gal 6:1)
6. What did Paul mean when he said, “help these women”? (v3) How did Paul describe these women?
7. Why did Paul tell them to “rejoice” in verse four? And what did Paul mean by saying that “the Lord was at hand”?