

DO IT GOD'S WAY

Sermon Outline

An Exposition of Philippians 4:4-7
By Pastor Brent Tremblay, Sunday, May 17, 2020

Theme: While the Philippians were experiencing persecution from without and conflict within, Paul exhorts the church to follow his and the Lord Jesus' example and to do things God's way versus the way of the world.

1. Instead Of Being Vindictive, Be Gentle (v 5)

- Adopt a humble and reasonable attitude
- Submit ourselves to injustice and ill-treatment without hatred and malice, committing ourselves to God. (1 Pet 2:23)
- Instead of retaliating and lashing out, respond with gentleness and forgiveness.
- (Rom 12:17-21) – A loving response will serve to **burn away** the antagonism and bitterness in your opponent's head.
 - Examples from the Sermon on the Mount/GRACE required!
 - Anger – Mat 5:22
 - Retaliation – Mat 5:38-39
 - Loving enemies – Mat 5:43-44

2. Instead Of Being Anxious, Pray

- God is near. (v5b)
- Command: “do not be anxious about anything” (v 6a)
- Come to God with “prayer and supplication” and “requests”– communion/ specific needs.
- “With thanksgiving” – God is sovereign - He has allowed these to happen/He knows of them/ He desires to show you His goodness.
- Don't panic – be pulled apart, strangled, choked, squeezed!
- Result of our praying: Supernatural and inexplicable peace!
- “Guard heart and mind” – illustration of sentry, soldier standing on guard to protect.
- “In Christ Jesus” – we must learn to trust exclusively in Him!

Bible Study Questions

1. Talk about how we naturally tend to respond to persecution and/or interpersonal conflicts.
2. What did Paul mean when he said, “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone”? Who is our ultimate example? (1 Peter 2:23) (Phi 2:5-8)
3. Discuss what would be required in order to live this type of lifestyle.
4. When facing persecution, or *any kind* of conflict in our lives, what things should we NOT DO, and what things SHOULD WE DO? (v 6) Are we able to overcome these battles on our own? (See Eph 6:12; 2 Cor 10:4; Zech 4:6-7)
5. Why would Paul tell us to pray “with thanksgiving”?
6. What is the RESULT of praying in faith? Have you ever experienced this?
7. What did Paul mean when he said that God’s peace would “guard” your heart and mind?