

Class Notes - Philippians -- Appendix number one

PRINCIPLES illustrated in Philippians that can help solve problems between believers.

1. The letter itself is a masterpiece of loving **tact**. Paul does not accuse, scold, lecture or use harsh words -- it is a book filled with blessing coming from a loving and rejoicing heart. He doesn't even mention the specific issues that were dividing Euodia and Syntyche.

2. We should not try to judge other's **motives**. "Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife ... [they] preach Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure **motives**. ... What then? ... Whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is preached**; and in this **I rejoice!**" (1:15 - 18 - NASB).

3. We need to be of "**one mind**," standing firm in "**one spirit**" ... maintaining the "**same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose**" (2:2). If both have the Mind of **Christ** -- then they have **one mind!** (Neither Euodia nor Syntyche had to "give in" to the other -- they just had to **both** "give in" to **Christ**.)

- * This results in fulfilling the exhortations of 2:3, 4.
- * It springs from having "the Mind of Christ" (2:5 & following).
- * God will reward this "mind" -- as He did in Christ (2:9 - 11).
- * God will work in you to make it possible (2:12, 13). This is the practical result of being members in one Body (Eph. 4:3 & following).

4. Remember our testimony before the world. They are watching what we do and **how we do it!** (2:14 - 16). If we are murmuring (toward God) and disputing with our brethren, we cannot effectively "shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life."

5. Seek the interests of **others** (2:4) and of **Christ** (2:20 - 22) -- not our **own!** Paul (1:23, 24), Timothy (2:19 - 22), and Epaphroditus (2:25 - 30), are examples of this principle.

6. Put **no confidence** in the **flesh** (3:3 - 9)! Compare these fleshly characteristics (the "religious" flesh) with those in Gal. 5:19 - 21 (the "filthy," obviously evil, flesh).

7. Don't dwell on the past (either our own past or that of others -- good or bad), but look to the future with hope and expectation (3:13, 14).

8. Don't question the salvation of people just because you have a misunderstanding with them (4:2, 3) -- "- whose names **are** in the book of life."

9. Let your "sweet reasonableness" be known to all men (4:5 - Wuest). *The exhortation is (according to Wuest) "Do not just keep this sweet reasonableness in your heart, let it find expression in your **conduct** also. Thus others will experience its blessings also."*

10. Be full of cares about nothing -- but full of prayers about everything. You will have **His** peace (4:6, 7).

11. Fill your mind with recollections of the good points of your brother or sister (4:8).

When we are angry with our brother we should pause to reflect on his good points -- it will put the present problem in perspective. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true [**about your brother**], whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are of good report [**about him**], if there be any virtue [**in him**], and if there be any praise [**for him**], think on **these** things." The preceding context indicates this as the primary application of this verse.

12. Don't fail to be on speaking terms with **every** saint! (4:21, 22)

13. Not all of the principles to accomplish this task are found in Philippians. Continue to study the whole word of God, specially Paul's epistles, for other truths which may be applied to heal divisions between believers.

14. See the study on the dispute between Paul and Peter, between Paul and the brethren in Jerusalem, and between Paul and Barnabas in **Class Notes on Acts -- Appended material "C."** This has to do with conflicts in Christian work -- based on a study of Acts 15 and Galatians 2.

Word

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