

One Another Principles in *Philippians*, pt 2

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Upper West Manhattan Church of Christ

*Unless otherwise stated, all Biblical quotations are taken from the ESV
(English Standard Version)*

Reason for writing Philippians

- Paul was in jail (1:12-13), had been about four years since he's seen them.
 - Paul had such a good relationship with these brethren. They loved and deeply cared about each other.
 - **Paul wanted to tell them that he was doing well in the Lord, share his love with them, and encourage them to press on. (2:12-13)**
- They had sent Epaphroditus with money to help Paul in prison.
 - Then Ep. got sick, and the Philippians had been worried about him. (2:26-28)
 - **Paul was sending Ep. back with this letter to thank them for their gift. (4:10-20)**
- Paul was concerned about false teachers influencing them. (3:2-4:1)
 - **Paul wanted to strengthen them to not give in and to keep their trust fully in the salvation of Jesus. (3:8-11)**

One major reason for writing this letter...

“I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.” (Phil 4:2-3)

- ✦ Paul wants to address their *one another* problems.
- ✦ Seen in a variety of verses through the book, made clear here with E and S.

“One another” principles in Philippians

1. Unified workers

“With one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (1:27)

“Same mind, same love, in full accord... of one mind.” (2:2)

2. Humble servants

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.... Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who... emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant” (2:3-7)

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing...” (2:14)

3. Affectionate brethren

“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown” (4:1)

“I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.” (1:7-8)

Principle 4: Striving Disciples

3:2-16

“For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (v8-11)

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.” (v12)

“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (v13-14)

“Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.” (v15)

“Let those of us who are perfect have this mind...” (lit)

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)

3:2-16

“For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as nothing that I may gain Christ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain resurrection from the dead.” (v8-11)

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.” (v12)

“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (v13-14)

“Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.” (v15)

“Let those of us who are perfect have this mind...” (lit)

Ends up helping us with “one another” but really it’s more of my personal aim towards the Lord

Mind — thinking, focus, attention, mindset, attitude, spirit
literal translations of *phroneo* - “mind”...

“For it is right for me to have this mind toward all of you, because I hold you in my heart...” (1:7)

“Complete my joy by being of the same mind... being in full accord and of one mind...” (2:2)

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...” (2:5)

“Let those of us who are mature have this mind, and if in anything you have a different mind, God will reveal that also to you.” (3:15)

“Many... walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly... with minds set on earthly things.” (3:18-19)

“I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.”

- Here’s our same word again...

lit: *“Euodia I entreat and Syntyche I entreat to have the same mind in the Lord.”*

- ✦ E and S need to have this mind that Paul has been describing in the letter:

- Unified workers
- Humble servants
- Affectionate brethren
- Striving disciples

What will conflict look like between two people who have this mind?

- Unified workers
- Humble servants
- Affectionate brethren
- Striving disciples

- Independent pew-warmers
- Proud supervisors
- Apathetic others
- Self-satisfied “Christians”

What about dealing with people like this?

1. We will still have conflict...

Acts 15:36-40

So who was right? (2 Tim 4:11...?)

- One of the most difficult questions we'll face is how to deal with people.

...but how will we deal with it?

- Do you think Paul and Barnabas dealt with this selfishly and proudly?

2. We are called to help each other

Philippians 4:2-3 (literal)

Euodia I entreat and Syntyche I entreat to have the same mind in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true Syzygus, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

To really help, Syzygus would need to be fair, impartial, unprejudiced, not pick sides, etc. (1 Tim 5:21)

Could we be a modern day Syzygus?