

Philippians 4:2-5a

Reconcile

Companions in the Gospel ...

- I. An Undefined Conflict
 - A. Devout But Divided
 - B. Peace Brokers
- II. Not Uncommon
 - A. The Nature of Strife
 - B. The Damage of Division
- III. Seeking Reconciliation
 - A. Real Repentance
 - B. Reasoned Resolution
 - C. Recalibrated Relationship

... unified in Christ.

Children, listen ...

1. Do Christians always get along with each other? How do you know that?
2. What should people in the church do if they are not getting along?
3. Do you think it is important to ask ourselves if we have sinned against someone? Why?
4. What should we do if we have hurt someone?
5. We want to do God's will. Is it God's will that we get along with each other?

When Christians Clash

Face it, the church is a pile of sinners saved by grace. The sin part lingers and so we don't always get along. Sad but true. I love the fact that the issue between the two women in the text is undefined. We have no idea what it was or how dramatic things got, we simply know that they disagreed on something to the extent that it merited mention in Paul's letter as well as third party involvement to help straighten it out. Whatever the magnitude, strife in the church is unhealthy, and left unattended, it can become toxic. Do you have issues with anyone in your church? Is there tension between you and a brother or sister in the body of Christ that needs gracious attention? If so reconciliation is the call of the day for you. If you have offended someone – you need to go to them in humility. If someone has offended you – you need to approach them with a spirit of grace. If it's complicated seek the help of a godly, objective third party. May God's grace abound in our church, may our love for one another be evident to all, and may the Lord be glorified by the harmony we enjoy in the body of Christ here at Covenant.