

I. Intro: everyone disagrees

- A. But the gospel is a message of reconciliation!
- B. So why is it that there is so much disagreement? (John 13:35; 17:11, 22)
- C. How can we get past disagreements in the church?

II. Fight! A serious disagreement between key Christians in Philippi

- A. Who they were (Romans 16:3, 9, 21; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 1 Corinthians 16:16; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25; Colossians 4:11; 3 John 8; see also Acts 16:14, 40)
- B. What's going on (cf. Romans 16:4-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2; see also 1 Corinthians 1:10-12)
- C. Paul takes neither side! (1 Corinthians 7:10)

III. Agreeing in the Lord

- A. Romans 14-15: a couple of different disputes are separating Christians (especially see Romans 15:5-6)
- B. The church in Corinth is to restore, encourage, agree with one another, and live in peace: this will lead to the presence and blessing of "the God of love and peace" (2 Corinthians 7:8-11; 13:9, 11; Galatians 6:1)
- C. The *agreement* and mutual love of the Philippians complete Paul's joy. (Philippians 2:2)
- D. Not a change of opinion, a change of attitude

IV. How to agree: rejoice!

- A. A pattern emerges: rejoicing → agreement (2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 2:2; Philippians 3:1 with 4:2-4)
- B. *Rejoicing* gives the perspective to know what is essential and what is not
- C. Rejoice!
 - i. Rejoice in response to good things happening! (Luke 15:6-7, 9-10, 32; Romans 5:11; Philippians 2:12-18)
 - ii. Choose to rejoice in response to bad things happening! (Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23; Romans 5:2-5; 1 Peter 1:6, 8; 4:13)
 - iii. Rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 3:1; 4:4; see 1 Samuel 2:1; Psalms 32:11; 35:9; 64:10; 97:12; 104:34; Isaiah 41:16; 61:10; Joel 2:23; Habakkuk 3:18; Zechariah 10:7!)
 - iv. Rejoice that your names are written in the book of life! (Luke 10:20; see also Daniel 12:1; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15)