

# Home Group Helps

## Philippians 4:1-5

### *Joy for the Journey: Standing Firm*

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. <sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

#### **The sermon reflects five great imperatives given by Paul:**

**I. Stand (v.1)** – Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

**II. Agree (v.2)** – <sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

**III. Help (v.3)** – <sup>3</sup> 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.

**IV. Rejoice (v.4)** – <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

**V. Be Gentle (v.5)** – <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

#### **1. Launching Question(s):**

- Can you remember a time when you were blessed by overcoming a conflict with another person?

#### **2. Observation Question(s):**

- This text centers around Paul addressing a conflict between two prominent women in the church, Euodia and Syntyche, whom he urges to “agree in the Lord” (or “live in harmony”). Why do you suppose that Paul devotes so much attention to this problem?
- What could happen in the church of Philippi if the problem is not addressed?

#### **3. Interpretation Question(s):**

- In vs. 1, Paul tells the Philippians (and us) to “stand firm thus in the Lord.”
- “Stand firm” is a military term commanding soldiers to hold to their position on the battlefield. How does this relate to what we are to do in the Christian life?
- See Ephesians 6:12. Who do we stand firm against?
- Who benefits when we stand firm?
- Why is standing firm so important?
- What does it mean that we stand firm “in the Lord?”
- In vs. 5, Paul commands, “let your reasonableness (or gentleness) be known to everyone.”

- How is being reasonable/gentle a reflection of the character of Christ (Matt. 11:29)?
- How is being reasonable/gentle unlike the way the world operates (Matt. 20:25-28)?

**4. Reflection Question(s):**

- Again, Paul implores the church to “rejoice in the Lord” and, for emphasis, repeats the refrain, “again I say rejoice.”
- How might rejoicing in the Lord assist these two women in overcoming their differences and living in harmony?
- A.W. Tozer said, “Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.”
- How does our “rejoicing” aid in our worship, in having “high thoughts of God?”

**5. Application Question(s):**

- Can you think of someone whom you might have offended with whom you need to reconcile this week?

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