

LIVE IN HARMONY

Philippians 4:2-3

We can all be different but beautifully harmonize

I. AN APPEAL (2)

A. THE PEOPLE: Euodia and Syntyche
- Specifically calling them out

B. THE PRESCRIPTION: Live in harmony in the Lord

- Or: "Agree with each other in the Lord" (NIV)

1. Live in harmony ...

a. The practice: Consistently being agreeable or like-minded

1) Sharing the same passion: An abounding love (1:9)

2) Sharing the same purpose: Striving together for the faith of the gospel (1:27)

3) Sharing the same position: Standing firm in the Lord (4:1)

b. The prohibition: No discord and disagreements

1) No conceit: Selfishness and pride (2:3-4)

2) No complaints: Grumbling or disputing (2:14)

3) No competing: Pleasures waging war in your members - James 4:1-2

2. In the Lord

a. Focused on Him: Our thoughts may be varied but our focus can be the same

b. Fellowshiping with Him

II. AN ASSIST (3)

A. THE REQUEST: Help these women

1. Calling in an assistant

- A team player that Paul trusted

2. Asking him to help these women

- Sometimes people need help reconciling

B. THE REASON: They shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel

1. They "labored side by side with me in the gospel" (ESV)

2. Those who had helped the work are now hindering it!

III. SOME APPLICATIONS

A. WE BEGAN BY HARMONIZING OUR HEARTS WITH PRAYER AND PRAISE

B. CONSIDER THESE HARMONY HELPERS AS WELL

1. Care for one another - I Thess. 5:11

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

2. Communicate with one another - Eph. 4:29-32

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

3. Confront one another - Gal. 6:1-2

“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

4. Cooperate with one another - Rom. 15:5-6

“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

CONCLUSION:

We must consistently cooperate in Christ!

“Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” - II Corinthians 13:11

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