



INTRODUCTION

If two of our Pastors were to find themselves in an unresolved feud over something that everyone in the congregation was aware of, I wonder what type of impact it would have on the rest of the congregation? Certainly there would be a feeling of uncertainty and sadness among the members of the local church, and surely the witnesses of the Pastors would be tarnished. So, the quicker the disagreement is squashed the better. If an understanding can't be reached on the subject at hand, there is always one point of agreement among Christians and that is the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then, if we follow a short list of instructions we will have peace even in the midst of a storm. This peace is not as the world gives but the type of peace that only the Lord can give!

Philippians 4:1-7 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

² I implore Euodia (yoo-od-ee'-ah) and I implore Syntyche (soon-too'-khay) to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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In chapter 3 Paul is telling the church to “press” toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Now he is telling us to “stand fast” in the Lord. Alright, which is it? Do we press toward the goal or do we “stand fast”? The answer of course is both! We can't press forward if we aren't stable in our ways and in our thinking. After all, we are not commanded to stand fast in any man-made thought, subject, idea or plan. We are commanded to stand fast in the Lord. We know the Lord never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. There is now shadow of Him turning. He's a Rock in a weary land. He's a very present help in time of trouble. He's our fortress and our deliverer. He's our stronghold and our strength. That's someone we can stand fast in! Hallelujah to the Lamb of God!



Paul has already mentioned the necessity of unity within the body of Christ. He has mentioned the exact words “same mind” process no less than nine different times in the New Testament. We must remember all scripture is by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit according to II Tim. 3:16, so it’s really the Holy Spirit directing us towards unity. When Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the power of the devil, Jesus said, “A house divided against itself will not stand.” Everyone realizes that we all won’t agree on everything, but we must not allow our disagreements to stunt the growth of the body. We must not air our dirty laundry. This does not mean to “grin and bear it”. We must work to resolve the matter to prevent it from rearing its ugly head in the future.

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These actions directed by the Holy Spirit are not suggestions, or quick fixes to our issues. These are commands which we in the body of Christ must obey in order to maintain good church fellowships and our fellowship with the Father.

Paul isn’t saying to “go along to get along.” Paul is saying that when we are constantly rejoicing in the Lord, our side of the issue isn’t nearly as important as we first thought.

Being gentle isn’t being weak, it’s being meek and “the meek shall inherit the earth.” By showing gentleness we are recognizing the eminent return of the Lord.

What’s the difference between prayer and supplication? We’re glad you asked! Prayer can be used to simply praise and worship God or have a desire of hope of change. Supplication is better described as someone asking or humbly begging God to give something that no one else can give. The main thing here is take your burdens to the Lord. Don’t display anxiousness but display confidence in your Savior in prayer that He will never leave you or forsake you. Then thank Him for being your God in and through the situation, not because of it.

Peace will come over us before the outcome is known. A peace the world can’t give nor can take away. A peace that the world can’t understand.