



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

Stay True

Philippians 4:1-9 NLT

This week in our study of Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippian church, we come to Chapter 4 and now move into Paul's concluding challenges to the church. He begins this final section, once again, with the word, "Therefore," so it is built upon his statements in the previous 3 chapters.

He writes this in 4:1 - **Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.**

As we study this passage, understand that it comes to us from a man of God that deeply cares for those who are reading his letter - even for us today, nearly 2000 years later.

1. Paul essentially "calls out" two individuals who have served with him and loved him to settle a disagreement they have with each other. Read 4:2-3 - **Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. 3 And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.** Paul understands that believers may not agree on everything but must find unity as they serve together.

Why is the working out of divisive disagreements important for Christ-followers? How would you evaluate yourself when it comes to loving fellow believers who may have different opinions about aspects of life and faith?

2. Paul reminds us in verse 4 to **"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice!"** rather than getting caught up in defending our opinions and fighting for what we want. When you honestly evaluate yourself, how successful are you at rejoicing in what you have in Christ rather than spending time gaining what you want? In verse 5, Paul gives this instruction - **Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.** Christians are to be known for their reasonableness and graciousness, also known as "forbearance". In order for the Gospel to impact those around us, we must give up our preferences and show grace to each other. Otherwise, we are taking up valuable time that has eternal consequences.

Honestly share how you would evaluate your own focus in this area. How would others around you view and describe you?

3. In verse 6, we read **Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.** One of the definitions of worry/anxiety that Pastor Tevis shared in his message was "living with self defeating, persistent thoughts."

He also quoted Pastor John Ortberg: *This type of worry could be called "functional atheism." You are living as though God doesn't exist, as if He is not the all-sovereign ruler over all...Anxiety is a joy killer. It will make you self-absorbed. You become consumed with your worries. Worry distracts you. It keeps you from the mission. It robs you of peace. You will be less likely to serve others wholeheartedly.*

How does this quote challenge you personally? The alternative to worry, according to the Apostle, is to PRAY gratefully acknowledging that God is in control, and giving Him our hurts, desires, and needs. Share your own experience in trusting God fully rather than living in worry.

4. Paul gives us another challenge in verse 8 - **And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.** Simply put, Paul is telling us how to think differently.

Discuss with your group the meanings of the adjectives in this verse: *true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy*. What changes do you need to make in your beliefs or habits in order for you to think differently?

5. In verses 7 & 9 Paul writes, **Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus... 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me — everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.** We must go beyond just hearing, reading, or even discussing this passage with our group in order for change to take place in us. If we do not go deeper with the truth that we are coming to know, then we risk forgetting and losing out on opportunities for personal growth.

What is one change you are going to make, or principle you are going to apply in your life THIS WEEK to make sure you do not forget what God is saying to you through these verses?