

Philippians: Week 12 Study Questions

Philippians 4:2-5

While our faith is personal, it is not private. In Philippians 4:2-5, Paul shares in his letter both an exhortation to two women in the Philippian church who cannot make peace with each other and a command to rejoice in the Lord in view of Jesus' return. Not only does this reveal to us that we are to make peace with others because we are of the same mind in Jesus Christ, but that we are to rejoice and hold loosely the things of this world.

Application

1. Paul begins by addressing a disagreement between two believers, made public by their profession of faith and commitment to the local church. On what basis does he plead with them to settle their disagreement? Think of a difficult relationship in your life: what would it look like for you to let go of the offense and settle it for the sake of having the same mind in the Lord?
2. The experiences of Paul uniquely qualify him to tell the church to rejoice in the Lord. When you think of the phrase "rejoice in the Lord," what comes to mind? What is our ability to rejoice in the Lord based on? How does this fact frame the reality of your difficult or painful circumstances?
3. As a community of believers, we are to be characterized by being considerate, composed, and gentle with others. How true is this for you within your sphere of influence? What would be some indicators that this is not true of you? With whom and under what circumstances can you be more gentle and considerate?
4. The way in which Paul handles this disagreement tells us that even mature Christians find themselves in situations where they must have someone else step in to help them. In what areas of your life might you need someone else to step in and help? If this has happened in the past, how did pride seep in as you considered asking someone to help you?

Key Points

- We make peace with others in the Lord and rejoice in the Lord through talking to ourselves, not listening to ourselves. We should not listen to our own sense of justice; instead of listening to what we are feeling, we must tell ourselves what is ultimately true—to take captive our thoughts and direct them to obedience of God.
- We can miss what God wants to do with our lives because community seems too difficult and we would rather be able to hide and avoid difficult conversations.
- Thoughts will come to mind, but it's what we do with our thoughts that determine who we are.
- The hope and truth that the Lord is near allows us to let go of anxiety—it gives us hope in the midst of what panics us.

Scripture References

[Proverbs 26:17](#)