

A Scandalous Joy: Conflict | Philippians 4:1-3

Philippians 4:1-3

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ 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.



Replace seeking to “Win” with seeking to “Reconcile” Goal

Philippians 4:2

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

Key Practice: Listen to people with whom you have conflict

“There is a kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person has to say. It is an impatient, inattentive listening, that despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and thus get rid of the other person...Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by Him who is Himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We

should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Replace an “Enemy” Mindset with a “Beloved Brother or Sister” Mindset

Philippians 4:1

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Key Practice: Pray for people with whom you have conflict

“I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Replace an “Avoid and Appease” Approach with a “Truth in Love” Approach

Philippians 4:2

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche...

Key Practice: Take the initiative to clear the air without resorting to blame or insults

1. Facts
2. Thoughts
3. Feelings
4. Desires
5. Action Plan

Replace Gossiping and Side-Taking Community with Mediating Community

Philippians 4:3

³ 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.

Key Practice: Listen well, then hold church family members accountable to resolve conflict after they’ve vented with you