

October 15, 2017
When Interpersonal Relationships Go Wrong
Philippians 4:2,3

Introduction:

- Two women in the Philippian church were in c_____
 1. They had helped Paul spread the g_____
 2. They were considered Paul's f_____ workers
 3. They must have had influence in the church
- The believer in Christ is to exist in c_____ with other believers (together, believers are the body of Christ).
 1. We must not isolate ourselves from others to a_____ conflict
 2. We must not isolate ourselves b_____ of conflict
- Philippians gives three principles to follow when a relationship with another believer goes wrong.

Desire Immediate Reconciliation

- Paul encourages the two women to live in h_____
(KJV; NIV – *be of the same mind*; NLT – *settle your differences*; ESV – *agree*).
 1. This DOES NOT mean that we have to hold the s_____ opinions, philosophies, methods, etc.
 2. This DOES mean that we must not let our differences h_____ our relationships with one another.
- Our relationships must be based on C_____, not opinions
 1. The two women both:
 - a. Had a p_____ to spread the gospel
 - b. Had their names in the b_____ of life
 2. Opinions do not divide. S_____ attitudes behind them divide.
 3. We must never place our opinions, philosophies, or methods as more important than relationships.
- When disharmony occurs with another believer, d_____ immediate reconciliation.
 1. It does not matter who is right or wrong to determine who should make the f_____ move (see Matt 5:23,24)
 2. If you do not desire to be reconciled, you are guilty of not l_____ your fellow Christian (Jn 13:35)

Require a Godly Solution

- The key phrase in verse 2 is *in the Lord* - This means the harmony
 1. It is possible to be in sinful harmony
 - a. Acts 4:32-5:11 – Ananias and Saphira agreed to be deceitful in their g_____.
 - b. Exodus 32:1-10 – Aaron agreed to make an i_____ for the people of Israel to worship in order to deal with the chaos.
 2. Scripture verses that can help you work toward godly harmony
 - a. Eph 4:32 – F_____ those who have done wrong to you.
 - b. Eph 4:31 – C_____ any wrong attitudes you have had and turn from them all.
 - c. Gal 6:1 – Confront any sinful attitudes in a g_____ manner.
 - d. Eph 2:10 – Focus the b_____ of the relationship on Christ, instead of opinions, philosophies, or methods.

- What if every attempt fails to bring harmony?

Acquire Spiritual Mediation

- Paul urges a person whom he calls *t_____ comrade* to **HELP** these women restore their broken relationship.
- What is the value of a mediator?
 1. A mediator can be o_____ (see things that those at odds may not be able to see)
 2. A solution from a mediator may be more readily a_____ than a solution from one of the people at odds. Pride often keeps people from accepting anything from the “other side.”

Conclusion:

- Is there a believer that you are not in harmony with today?
 1. Will you obey God’s word and desire harmony?
 2. Will you obey God’s word and apply a godly solution? (apply #2 under “Require a godly solution.”)
 3. Will you seek a mediator if nothing else works?
- God’s community of believers must have harmony in order to impact our world – by this the world will know that we are Christ’s disciples, if we have unselfish l_____ for one another.