

## Joy Even in Conflict

### Philippians 4:1-9

*If a person in our church were physically broken and bleeding out, we would drop everything to help them. Likewise, when a relationship in our church is broken, we should \_\_\_\_\_ them enough to \_\_\_\_\_ them and help them reconcile.*

**Discussion 1. Do you have a “Syzygus (loyal yokefellow)” in your life who loves you enough to confront you when you have a broken relationship that is hurting you? In whose life might you play that role?**

*The world is watching to see if Christians respond to conflict any differently than the rest of the world. Do we have the same “fight or flight” responses as the world, or do we show a deeper hope, a greater faith in a \_\_\_\_\_ that surpasses all understanding?*

**Discussion 2. What does it take for you to be able to see the God-ordained opportunity in a conflict? What do you have to do in order to get there?**

*Prayer is often less about changing our circumstances and more about gaining a peace that guards our hearts and our minds as we learn to see the circumstances from \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3. For you, what is the difference between praying to change your circumstances and praying to gain perspective on your circumstances? Which is more difficult for you?**

*Learning to \_\_\_\_\_ in my brother/sister with whom I otherwise strongly disagree is critical to the church’s testimony in the midst of a deeply divided culture. And our ability to “rejoice in the Lord always” depends on it.*

**Discussion 4. What is necessary for you to find Christ in a fellow Christian with whom you disagree strongly? If you cannot find Christ in them, do you think that says more about them or about you?**

**Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?**

## Philippians 4:1-9

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

<sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

### Prayer Requests for my table:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**NEXT WEEK: Philippians 4:10-23**