

## ***Standing Firm, Part 2***

Philippians 4:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. <sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also 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 gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:1-5

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:1-4

<sup>27</sup> Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.. Philippians 1:27

When there is contentiousness **within** the church we will be **compromised** in our ability to **stand** as a church.

H.A. Ironside – *“It is always the effort of Satan to hinder the people of God from steadfastly clinging together, and presenting a unified front to the enemy. Alas, that his effort to introduce dissension so readily succeeds because of the flesh in us.”*

Alistair Begg – *“Whenever the church is distracted by petty and peripheral concerns it saps the energy of all who are caught up in them.”*

Questions for investigation:

A) **Who** are these women?

- 1) **Influential** members of the church.
- 2) **Co-laborers** in the Gospel.
- 3) **Believers** in Christ.

B) **What** does Paul want them **to do**? (vs. 2)

- 1) Live in **harmony** with each other.

2) In the Lord.

The one who is the most mature goes first.

Gene Getz – *“Not seeing eye-to-eye then, even among mature Christians is not a new phenomenon. But mature Christians also resolve their disagreements and come to a mutual understanding and consensus. They do not allow these problems to interfere with love and unity in the body of Christ.”*

<sup>1</sup> Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. Romans 15:1-2

<sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.”  
Romans 15:3

<sup>13</sup> Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:13-18

C) How can they do it? (vs. 4)

Rejoice in the Lord always.

<sup>17</sup> ...the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice... Philippians 1:17-18

Joy moves from a feeling we get because circumstances are going our way to a deep and abiding contentment knowing that nothing in the world can separate us from the love of Christ.

D) Why can they do it? (vs. 5)

The Lord is near, He is our defender and judge.

<sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. <sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. <sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:16-21

We overcome evil with good.